Message from the President

Daniel Heltzel, President

Welcome to what will be an Epic 2018 season! Your WCRA Board, Team Reps and others are hard at work to make this upcoming season a fantastic one! Our volunteers are putting in countless hours prepping the pool & grounds, organizing teams and lining up fun events and activities. Please thank them when you see them! This season will be WCRA’s most successful one yet with the help of all of our members, working together to help make WRCA the best in the area for our members, families and kids to enjoy.

Most of our volunteers have full time jobs, busy family schedules and other volunteer commitments, so please consider trying to find a good fit for you to volunteer with WCRA as well. There are many ways to help our association become better and helping out is a great way to meet new people and connect with our community. Many hands make lighter work and we all win together! Please feel free to reach out to my email below and I am sure we can find a way to utilize your talents. Some of our volunteer roles are done in the comfort of your own home and take very minimal amounts of time.

WCRA belongs to each of us, as Members. Helping to ensure the facility remains clean and safe for all of our members should be a collective goal, and we can all contribute by cleaning up after ourselves, reminding kids to clean up after themselves, picking up a piece of trash instead of walking by, and letting a Board member know immediately if something is not working properly so we can take action. In addition, please make sure that all food and drinks remain within designated areas – this helps with cleanliness and safeguards against pest issues. Also, we haven’t typically had problems with bullying at WCRA, however the Board will take appropriate action if needed – please make sure your children know the expectations for treating all members with courtesy and respect. Bullying will not be tolerated. (And a gentle reminder, be sure and adhere to the age guidelines for kids at the pool – https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.leagueathletics.com/Text/Documents/10053/53049.pdf.)

We have made a huge push for new bonded members, if you know anybody that might be interested in joining, or new to our neighborhood, we are offering guest passes for referrals. At the same time, we are cracking down on misuse of membership, where members had been allowing non-members into the pool without a pass. This summer, please be patient as there might be a longer than normal time when checking in at the front desk. We have a membership limit and a capacity limit for a reason and want to ensure the comfort and enjoyment of the facility for all members.

To contact me in regards to volunteering or any other issues, please email me directly at president@wakefieldchapelrec.org.
Board Notes

OPENING WEEKEND NEWS: This year, the Board has decided to open WCRA for the season on the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend. The pool will be open from 4pm to 9pm on Friday, May 25th and we’ll have our first Food Truck Friday of the summer – no pre-registration required. Just grab the family and your favorite Friday night beverage and head on over to kick off the season with your friends at WCRA!

Tennis Court Bond: At long last, the bond Fairfax County required WCRA to take out when installing the third, lower tennis court, has been closed and the bond funds refunded to WCRA. Thank you Cary Fichtner-Vu for working to resolve this lingering issue!

Board Meetings: The WCRA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7pm-9pm at the Sprague Center. Open discussion for membership is 7pm-7:15pm. All members are welcome to attend! If you wish to include an item on the agenda, please submit your request via email one week in advance of the meeting (send to secretary@wakefieldchapelrec.org).

Questions? Various governing and organizational documents (i.e. Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and other WCRA policies) and all Meeting Minutes can be found on the website, www.wakefieldchapelrec.org as well as contact information for your volunteer Board Members.

IMPORTANT Dates:

Dues Paid – no later than midnight on May 1st
Family Profile completed – by May 24th
Opening Day – May 25th
Opening Weekend Picnic – May 27th

Please see the last page for pool closings/partial closings and other events.

MEMBERSHIP

Katherine Schultz, Director for Membership

Membership is on the rise this Spring at WCRA, with 20 newly bonded families and three military families already signed up for this season! Part of this surge is due to the new brochure the Board of Directors created together. It has been distributed to many new households in our area, thanks to the expertise of member Michael Fay. We really appreciate his help in finding families that are new to our community. If you know of any family that isn't a member and might like information about Wakefield Chapel Recreation Association, please email me directly at membership@wakefieldchapelrec.org and we will get a brochure to that household right away.
Many thanks to all the families who have already paid their annual dues for 2018. We decided to get a jump start and allow people to pay as early as January and the response has been surprising – nearly 100 members are already paid up and current for the 2018 season! This bodes well for possible “early-bird” pricing next year. **Please do remember that all membership dues must be paid in the online membership system by midnight of May 1st.** Any dues received after that deadline will need to pay an additional $100 late fee, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Further, dues must be current in order to access to the facility (pool, tennis courts) or participate in any Wahoos teams (swim, dive, tennis).

If you have forgotten your login credentials, please email membership@wakefieldchapelrec.org and we will send them to you electronically! We need each family to review and/or update their family and contact information to ensure you continue to receive all WCRA news, including event and activities updates. (Reminder: In the system, do not opt out of “promotional emails.” These are the emails that include ALL pool information (dues invoices, newsletters, activity updates, etc.) and if you opt out, the WCRA Board will not be responsible for correspondence as required by the Bylaws.)

Also, please be sure to give the front desk staff your Membership ID number each time you enter the pool. The guards will verify your pool membership and the system will track facility usage which helps us to plan for future seasons. Remember – you will need a guest pass for each person who is not listed on your membership in the system and for any planned event or party you may host at the pool.

**SALE OF MEMBERSHIP**

If you want to sell your membership, submit your written request (email is authorized as well) to WCRA signed by all owners of the membership. Once received, you will be placed on the sale waiting list in the order that your request was received. At this time, no membership has been on the sales list for more than six months, but you are responsible for continuing to pay your annual dues until your membership is sold (per the WCRA By-laws).

If you have questions or need further information, please email membership@wakefieldchapelrec.org.

**OPERATIONS**

*Brian Collins, VP for Operations*

After the big storms last spring, we had arborists come evaluate our remaining pine trees on the Hill. Unfortunately, they were approximately 10 years past their expected life cycle and living on borrowed time. We had them removed so that they wouldn’t come crashing down in another storm, or while the facility was in use. Looking to the future, community Boy Scouts planted several 10 to 12-foot fast-growing trees. The trees are young now, but hopefully will provide ample shade for the Hill when they mature in several years. In the meantime, we have installed several shade sails to provide sun protection on the Hill until the trees are mature enough to do so.

Many of you have noticed the parking lot was beginning to show its age, with cracks, potholes and faded markings. We have hired a company to properly to fix the potholes and cracking issues, reseal the lot and then remark the lines.

Our last big project for this off season is to remove the old tattered blue roof coverings for something more substantial and reliable. We will be replacing them with a permanent roof structure over the Ledo deck that will provide a better shelter for swim meets and members general use. We have also created a small play space and added a tot lot play area near the baby pool.
We hope to continue to grow our mini-library and board game collection so if you have any books or games in good condition that you would like to donate, we would be glad to put them to use!

**May 12th from 9:00am to 1:00pm will be a Community Clean-up Day.** We need help with a multitude of easy projects like painting, cleaning, power washing and general straightening up to get ready for another fun summer season. WCRA belongs to each of us as members, so even if you can only come for a short time, please plan to stop by and help out in some way!

**Want a free garden plot?** We have an overgrown area between the parking lot and the creek (protected wetland) that has potential to be a wonderful spot. Anyone that would like a plot is invited to come out on Sunday, **April 8th** and help to clear the area. The size of the plots will be dependent on how many people are interested and how hard you are willing to work.

We always welcome Member feedback, so please e-mail **operations@wakefieldchapelrec.org** with your constructive comments and suggestions to help keep our Association the best in Northern Virginia.

Looking forward to another great summer season at WCRA! Go Wahoos!

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**SNACK BAR**

*Cary Fichtner-Vu, Snack Bar*

The WCRA Snack Bar adds enjoyment to our members and their guests by offering a wide variety of snacks and drinks during pool operating hours, in a clean and friendly environment. Each year, the snack bar grows in popularity, and requires a group of hardworking teens to run and oversee the operation. We always try to provide new options and 2017 was the season of healthy snacks, which were greeted with less enthusiasm than the always popular candy and ice cream options.

**EMPLOYMENT**

We are thrilled to announce that Matthew Ferrari will be returning as Student Snack Bar Manager. We will also be hiring two student assistant managers and 10 student workers for the snack bar. The due date for applications is May 1, 2018, NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE! This is an excellent first job for our neighborhood teens, but please understand that a good work ethic is expected; the snack bar is managed like a business, and timeliness, responsibility and quality customer service are required. Parents are asked to sign an expectation form, but otherwise this job is the student’s responsibility. APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE – please note if your application is for assistant manager or student worker.

**VOLUNTEERS**

In order to provide a snack bar to our members, we need an adult supervisor overseeing the overall operation – we NEED A VOLUNTEER to step forward for next year, to shadow Cary this year and take over next year. Great student employees make this an easy position for the Adult Supervisor volunteer and additional volunteers may be used for organizing and setting up, as well as counting the cash/deposits bi-weekly and shopping for supplies.

**SNACK CARDS**

Snack Bar cards will be available online on at [www.wakefieldchapelrec.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelrec.org) after May 1, 2018. PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING your snack cards EARLY so we can have them ready at the start of the season. Snack cards are available in
$10 or $25 cards and are great birthday, graduation, or end of school gifts. All snack cards purchased by May 20 will be ready for OPENING DAY! Cards may be picked up at the Snack Bar with a photo id.

For any questions or to help out as a volunteer, please call Cary Fichtner-Vu at 703-861-8259 (cell) or email at caryf@caryfvu.com.

**SWIM TEAM**

*Cathy Read and Martha Murray, Swim Team Representatives*

This summer, the Wakefield Chapel Wahoos will be swimming in Division 2 of the [Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL)](http://www.nvsl.org) as well as Monday night developmental meets! Our goal for 2018 is to create a fun, supportive environment where swimmers of *all* ages and abilities improve their swimming technique while embracing the enthusiastic spirit of the Great Wahoo! Please visit [www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org) for detailed information on dates and times. In addition to swim meets, we will continue our spirited Wahoo social activities including the team picnic, pasta dinner, ice cream socials, pancake breakfasts, and pep rallies. Daily practice starts on Tuesday, May 29 in the afternoon and moves to mornings on Monday, June 18.

Cathy Read and Martha Murray are Team Representatives this summer; Developmental Meet Team Representatives are Sarah Giddens and Erica Pinkston.

The Great Wahoo is still seeking a lucky parent or two (team up with a friend!) to shadow Cathy and Martha this year and take over as Team Rep in 2019. If you’re interested in answering the Great Wahoo’s call, please contact Cathy or Martha.

**REGISTRATION & FEES**

Swim team registration is available online at [www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org). To be eligible to participate on the swim team, a child must be between the ages of four and 18 on June 1, 2018. (In the NVSL, swimmer eligibility is determined by the swimmers age on June 1, 2018. For example, a swimmer age 18 on June 1, 2018 is still considered an 18-year-old swimmer for the entire season even if s/he turns 19 on June 2. Your age on June 1st will be your competitive age for the summer swim season.)

Swim team registration fees remain the same this year – $170 for one swimmer; $320 for two swimmers; $450 for three swimmers; $560 for four swimmers; and $650 for five or more swimmers. The Minnow Program is an additional $60 fee per swimmer. All four and five year old swimmers are required to register for the Minnow Program.

During online registration, the system will ask for your swimmer’s t-shirt size (included with registration) and if you would like to order a set of personalized swim caps (for an additional $30). Register by May 14th to order personalized caps and guarantee your preferred t-shirt size!

**COACHES**

Aubrey May is the Wahoos’ new Head Coach. Welcome Aubrey! Micah McIntyre and David Herbert will be Wahoos Assistant Coaches for 2018. And we will are happy to have our crew of capable lane coaches on deck and in the pool.

**TEAM SUIT & CAPS**
The Wahoos team swimsuit is the same as last year – the TYR Glisade suit. You can view and order the suit on [www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org) by clicking through Team Suit Ordering. The suit is also available for purchase at Suit Up (10631 Braddock Road). Purchase of the team suit is optional.

Wahoos team swim caps with personalization must be ordered by May 14th through the online registration process.

**VOLUNTEERS**
The Wahoos Swim Team cannot operate without the help of our volunteers. Parents must volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per swimmer or 20 hours for families with two or more swimmers. There are many ways to support the team and volunteer sign up will be available on [www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org) in early June, after registration is complete. Please volunteer – it’s a great way to meet your neighbors and ensure your swimmer has a fun and successful season!

More information about the Wahoos Swim Team is available in the Wahoos handbook, available at [www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org), under Documents.

If you have any questions, just ask. Go Wahoos!

**DIVE TEAM**

*Izabella Thomas and Courtney Collins, WCRA Dive Team Representatives*

Dive Season is upon us! Welcome back to our familiar faces, and a warm welcome to our newest divers who are brave enough to greet the chill of the pool, particularly getting in and out of it over and over again. We are always looking for new recruits! The team is open to kids and teenagers between the ages of 5 and 18. You don’t need to be an experienced diver – most of the team had no experience in diving when they joined us. All you need is an interest in the sport and a willingness to learn. Plus team members need to feel comfortable in deep water and be able to swim the length of the diving well.

DIVE TEAM PRACTICES & MEETS DO NOT CONFLICT WITH SWIM TEAM! So if you have a swimmer that might be interested in adding a fun summer sport, please encourage them to TRY DIVE!

**DUES**
Dues are $170 per diver, $320 for two, $450 for three divers and $560 for four or more divers from the same family. Register online: [https://www.teamunify.com/MemRegStart.jsp?team=recnvwcw&event_id=746988](https://www.teamunify.com/MemRegStart.jsp?team=recnvwcw&event_id=746988) or you can email the dive team reps (wakefieldchapeldive@gmail.com) to request a paper form.

**PRACTICE SCHEDULE**
Practice begins on Tuesday, May 29th, is one hour long and is held after school each weekday through June 15th. Once school lets out, beginning June 18th, practices will switch to mornings each weekday. DIVE TEAM PRACTICES & MEETS DO NOT CONFLICT WITH SWIM TEAM! So if you have a swimmer that might be interested in adding a fun summer sport, please encourage them to TRY DIVE!

- **May 29th through June 15th**: 4pm-5pm OR 5pm-6pm
- **June 18th through July 27th**: 10am-11am OR 11am-12pm
While the team is still on the smaller side, there will be no separate age groups for practices and we’ll have mixed-age practices until further notice. Please plan for your diver to attend whichever hour works best.

**COACHES**

Our coaches are all familiar to returning families!

- Owen Collins will be leading the team this summer for his senior summer of dive. Owen started diving with the Wakefield Chapel Wahoos in 2008, the first year of our neighborhood pool dive team. He is excited to be leading the team this year and hopes to have some younger divers be as positively influenced as he has been by the Wahoos homegrown coaches. Owen dove for Woodson High School and Mason Dive Academy during his high school years.
- Olivia Rummel, Wakefield Chapel and Woodson HS Diver, will be returning to her Assistant Coaching position with us to round out the dynamic duo of Wahoo coaches.
- Bridget Cassata and Aidan Thomas will also be returning to their posts at the dive well this summer to help coach and motivate the team with their expertise in encouraging reluctant divers and teaching the technical aspects of more complicated dives.

Please visit the Dive tab on the [www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelswimteam.org) website for a detailed calendar of Dive Team events, and to register for the team.

New this year is the option to invite members of neighboring pools which do not have a dive team, to join Wakefield Chapel on an athlete participant basis. We are hoping to grow our team by inviting kids who are interested in the sport, but don’t currently have the option to participate at their home pool.

TELL A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND, and come out and try DIVE this summer!

Any questions? Please email [wakefieldchapeldive@gmail.com](mailto:wakefieldchapeldive@gmail.com) or contact one of the Dive team reps:

Courtney Collins at 703-220-8215 (cell) or [voodoocoll@aol.com](mailto:voodoocoll@aol.com)

Izabella Thomas at 703-503-5865 (home) or 703-798-3788 (cell)

Dive Team Rep email at [wakefieldchapeldive@gmail.com](mailto:wakefieldchapeldive@gmail.com)

**TENNIS PROGRAM**

*TBD, Tennis Representatives*

Despite the late March snows, outdoor tennis season is coming up! It’s time to dust off the tennis racquet and get ready for another fun and exciting year of Wakefield Chapel Tennis.

A team of tennis pros from RJ Tennis® will lead our adult and junior programs again this year, led by Houston Ward. Houston attended Philadelphia University and played #1, #2, #3 and #4 singles and #1 doubles on the NCAA Division II team. He became a USPTA certified pro in 2013 and has worked for Four Star Tennis Academy as a Teaching Professional since 2014, coaching beginners to high performance juniors. Houston recently joined the RJ TENNIS Coaching staff in February 2018 and he is passionate about the sport of tennis in both playing and coaching; his passion for life is inspiring with all he works with.

**Spring Tennis:** We’ll have two sets of spring classes - from early April to early May and then early May to June, before kicking off our summer programs. Full details for class dates and times are posted on the Tennis tab at [www.wakefieldchapelrec.org](http://www.wakefieldchapelrec.org).
Summer Junior Tennis: With FCPS moving the end of the school year up, the WCRA Junior Tennis summer program will now be six weeks long, beginning the week of June 18th and ending the week of July 27th.

Our pre-team tennis players, ages 8 & under, will practice four times a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. And kids age 9 & up are eligible to play on our Wakefield Chapel boys and girls NVTL teams. Matches are held on Wednesdays and the team players also practice four days a week (M/T/TH/F).

Kids ages 4-6 play 9am to 10am
Kids ages 7-8 play 8am to 9am
Kids ages 9-12 play 10:15am to 11:15am
Kids ages 12+ play 11:15am-12:45pm

We try to organize the schedules by age groups that allow kids to participate in WCRA Tennis, as well as Wahoos Swim and/or Dive if they’d like. Most importantly, all levels of experience are welcome! The WCRA Tennis program is fun, very social and an easy way to get exercise. So, if you already enjoy tennis or are interested in trying it out for the first time, come out and play for Wakefield Chapel Tennis this summer!

If adult competitive tennis is your thing, Men 18 and over Saturday morning tennis league begins early June. Our adult mixed doubles team begins play on Sunday afternoons and if you prefer social tennis, plan to join us for Friday night strokes on the courts and drinks on the tennis deck.

Look for information regarding social tennis events, team details and class & team registration on the website soon!

For more information or to volunteer to help with any of our tennis programs, contact Daniel Heltzel at president@wakefieldchapelrec.org.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Season Crawford, Director for Social Activities

Summer will be here before we know it and WCRA has lined up a variety of fun, delicious, and entertaining community and social events for every age and interest! Please see our 2018 Summer Social schedule below. We are bringing back the ever-popular Food Truck Fridays and Friday Trivia Nights (no pre-registration required – just grab the family and your favorite Friday night beverage and head on over!), Friday Raft Nights in August, and Sunday evening Grill on the Hill all season long.

Stay in the loop of all things social by visiting www.wakefieldchapelrec.org or following us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/wakefield.chapel.rec.assoc.

2018 SUMMER SOCIAL

5/27 Opening Weekend Picnic (5pm-8pm); hosted by Cary Fichtner-Vu
6/9 Craft Beer Tasting (7pm-10pm); hosted by Melissa and Matt Aune
6/16 Family Fun Day & Charity Benefit (4pm-8:30pm); host(s) wanted!
6/30 Ladies Night (7pm-11pm); hosted by Jennifer Otto and Liz Collins
7/8 Tween party (3:30pm-5:30pm); hosted by Jillian Heltzel and Jennifer Tran
7/14  Adult party (7pm-11pm); hosted by Katrena Henderson and Charlie Tapp
7/15  Kids party (12pm-2pm); hosted by Michael and Rebecca Fay
7/22  Teen party (6pm-9pm); host(s) wanted!
8/25  55+ Adult party (7pm-10pm); hosted by Donna Smith and Winnie Keane
8/26  Crab Feast (3pm-7pm); host(s) wanted!
9/2   Closing Weekend Picnic (5pm-8pm); hosted by Jodi Benkarski
9/3   Doggie Swim (8pm-9pm)
9/9   Men’s Night (7pm-11pm); hosted by Brad Otto

HOSTS
A BIG THANK YOU to the WCRA members mentioned above who have already stepped up to host awesome 2018 summer events! Your help makes our pool one of the best in the area.

Hosts wanted! Let your creative, planning, and entertaining juices flow while hanging out with old friends and making new ones. To host the Family Fun Day, Teen Party, or Crab Feast or to propose a new event idea, please contact me at 571-425-7846 or social@wakefieldchapelrec.org, and I will be happy to help you with the logistics.

Dates are subject to change – please be sure to visit www.wakefieldchapelrec.org for the latest information.

ACTIVITIES

TBD, Activities

We’d love to offer yoga, boot camp, and water aerobics classes to our members this summer, but we need a WCRA member to coordinate them, plus any other fun class ideas. If you can help out, please contact Season Crawford at 571-425-7846 or social@wakefieldchapelrec.org.

PLEASE NOTE: WCRA Pool Closings for 2018 season

Saturday, 6/16  Wahoos Swim Time Trials, closed until 11:30am (½ hour after regular opening)
Monday, 6/25  Wahoos Swim B Meet, closed at 4pm
Saturday, 6/30  Ladies Night Party, closed at 6:30pm
Monday, 7/2  Wahoos Swim B Meet, closed at 4pm
Monday, 7/9  Wahoos Swim B Meet, closed at 4pm
Wednesday, 7/11 Wahoos Swim Divisional Relays Meet, closed at 3:30pm
Saturday, 7/14  Adult Party, closed at 4pm
Saturday, 7/28 Wahoos Swim Banquet, closed at 3pm
Saturday, 8/25  55+ Adult Party, closed at 5pm

(Dates are subject to change – please be sure to visit the Events Calendar at www.wakefieldchapelrec.org for the latest information and to see where/reciprocal pools that WCRA Members may use during closures.)