



WILLOWBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER
2021

The Willowbrook Community Association's purpose is to maintain and enforce building restrictions imposed upon the property within the subdivision in which members reside to aid in maintaining the character of the neighborhood to promote the social, educational and general welfare of all members to afford a means for collective action in community projects.

WCA BOARD MEMBERS

CALL OR TEXT WITH ANY
QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

PRESIDENT

Ryan Gabrielli
205.715.2585

VICE PRESIDENT

Aaron Klenke
703.679.8229

TREASURER

Melissa Gallagher
619.787.0847

SECRETARY

Michelle Sankovic
248.842.4929

SUB DIRECTORS

Greg Goodearl
248.861.5283

Monika Priya
248.470.3275

Judy Blanchard
248.476.6941

Emails can be sent to:
willowbrookhomeowners@gmail.com

Happy Summer

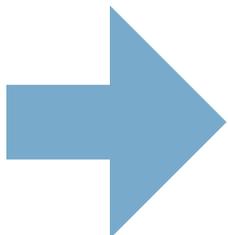
Happy Summer Willowbrook Community Residents!

I hope we all survived the great power outage of 2021. It was very encouraging to see many neighbors being awesome human beings! Whether it was checking up on an elderly neighbor or offering up their home to charge electronics/ do laundry, it just confirmed that we live in one of the best communities in Novi.

With summer in full swing, the board doesn't have any planned meetings until our general meeting in September. A few things to note, if a neighbor hasn't been keeping up with their lawn maintenance please try to reach out to that neighbor first or give us a heads up. We have some neighbors who are willing to help out those who are generally unable to keep up with the grass cutting. Please also remember that all new fences, sheds, or structures need board approval. If in doubt, just give us a shout. Our numbers and emails are listed on several different platforms (including this newsletter).

I'm going to keep this introduction short, as we have a lot to present in this newsletter. I hope everyone has a great summer.

Ryan Gabrielli (President)



DATES TO REMEMBER:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

WCA GENERAL MEETING

7:00 P.M. - ZOOM MEETING

Info will be on sub signs, prior to meeting,
and on the Willowbrook Community
Neighborhood Facebook page.

OCTOBER 1, 2021

WCA 2020/2021 DUES OF \$15.00

DUE - Invoice sent to all residents
in early September.

Community Beautification

Beautification of our community can come in many different forms. This year the WCA Board and WCA Beautification Committee have been focusing on community islands. There are five islands in subdivision 1 and four islands in subdivision 2. They each have their own potential for beauty, fostering neighborly connections and supporting plant and wildlife. Performing needed maintenance and beneficial improvements for these community areas is a lengthy undertaking that is being done in steps. Since the Beautification Special Meeting in May, the mostly dead tree on a Willow Lane island, the overgrowth on the Border Hill island, and the remaining portion of the damaged tree on a W Le Bost island have been cleared. The timing of this improvement was amazing, as it was completed just hours before the aggressive storm in early July that damaged trees and property. We are working with the City of Novi to evaluate replacement options that are esthetic, appropriate for being along roads and beneficial to the environment. We have been seeking and receiving input from residents throughout the process and appreciate all of the support. For future plans in subdivision 1, a common concern that needs to be addressed is the lack of curbs around the islands. Residents have reported that cars and trucks accidentally drive on and destroy grass on the islands. We even have learned of vehicles almost hitting the fire hydrants! The lack of curbs has become a problem for keeping the community areas in good shape and makes potential seating a more dangerous option. We explained the situation to the City and requested they add curbs. Novi is interested in adding the curbs for us, but said it would be when the roads are redone. This likely will be at least 5 years from now. Between now and then, maintenance and thoughtful upgrades still are valuable. Because the islands would be regraded when adding a curb, any trees we plant now will be ones that can be planted above grade. Any smaller plants would be away from the periphery of the island and ideally can be transplanted after the road construction. For future subdivision 1 projects, we would like to gather more input from those residents on what they would like to see improved. A survey is included in the newsletters of Sub 1 residents to gauge interest in various options. For subdivision 2, we are in the design phase of the future gardens that were approved at the meeting in May. The plants our landscaper is choosing are all native – which is vital to helping our ecosystem and require less maintenance than non-native plants. We hope to begin planting before students return to school in the fall. Former residents had donated seating to two of the islands. That seating was well loved but has deteriorated and no longer is there. The new commercial-grade seating will be arriving later this year. After contacting the City, we learned that they can provide us ADA accessible ramps the next time the roads are repaved. We are continuing to evaluate the option of ADA accessible ramps being added in the curbs. For subdivision 3, needs for community beautification are very different from that of the rest of the association. Having Brookfarm Park and the Village Oaks Elementary School within a short walk truly is an asset – and fortunately one that only the government needs to worry about maintaining! While the community island projects are our current focus, we have ideas for ways to beautify subdivision 3 that we would like to explore further. Advancements with beautification has been made and we look forward to the next steps in the process. We warmly welcome input and residents interested in helping to improve our community.

SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS

Every September our association has elections for the board of directors and the offices that manage the business of the board. These elections are important to our community and it's often the case that we have a hard time filling the positions.

The way our association was designed, there is a board of directors that manage the business and property of the association. There are a number of "officers" that manage the operations. The directors are the voice of the community at large. They listen to what their neighbors are saying and bring that to the monthly meetings. The current board sees the directors as the "voice" of the community.

Board of Directors: The voice of the community. What needs doing and how best to do it.

President: Manager of the meetings. Member of all the committees.

Vice President: When the President is unavailable, the VP steps in.

Secretary: Manages all the books. Meeting minutes. Member's names and addresses.

Treasurer: Manages the money. Collects dues. Lets title companies know what's owed or not.

In addition to these elected roles the association has committees that carry out much of the day-to-day activities that the board kicks off. Each of the roles plays an important part in the functioning of the association. All members (in good standing) are encouraged to attend the meeting in September to run or to vote for the next board.

DUES ARE DUE (AND THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOURS)

The purpose of the WCA is very clear: "To maintain and enforce building restrictions imposed upon the property within the subdivision in which members reside; **to aid in maintaining the character of the neighborhood**; **to promote the social, educational and general welfare** of all members; **to afford a means for collective action in community projects.**"

In the past year a number of teams and committees have formed to fulfill that purpose; community members have stepped up to improve our neighborhood.

The board (and the members) rely on timely payment of dues to maintain these projects and start new ones. At this time, eight months after they were due, 152 homes have not paid and, at \$15 per household, that is \$2,280. Sadly, the treasurer reports that this appears typical year to year; people are not paying their dues.

The Treasurer, and the Secretary, will be reaching out to those households that are in arrears asking them to become current. If you know you have not paid this year, or in previous years, please reach out via email, phone, the P.O. box, or the website and become current so that our community can continue to maintain and improve. [If you rent your home and a notice arrives, please pay the dues or inform the owner as it is their responsibility.]

Thanking you in advance!

WCA on the WEB

The official web page of the WCA is <https://willowbrook.gogladly.com/> There, you can read the general meeting minutes, see the constitution and bylaws and, (perhaps most importantly) pay your annual dues. Separately, there is a private Facebook group that is **NOT** affiliated with the WCA but is used by the neighborhood to share information. You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/willowbrookcommunityneighborhood/>

You can of course continue to mail any correspondence to the WCA, P.O. Box 184, Novi, MI 48376

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

WELCOME

Monika Priya - Sub Director/Beautification Committee. Monika is a lifelong Michigan resident who moved to Novi five years ago with her husband Rob. More recently, she has been trading long hours at work for long sleepless nights, playdates and field trips with her young family. Some of Monika's passions are hiking, gardening and traveling.

Melissa Gallagher - Treasurer and was part of the Garage Sale Committee this year. Melissa has lived in Novi for 4 years with her husband and her 3 children ages 8, 4 and 1.

Judy Blanchard - Sub Director. Judy has lived in Novi since August 1986, and Willowbrook since June 1999. Along with husband Scott they have happily raised their four sons here -- all of whom graduated from Novi High School between 2004-2012. Their family has continued to grow (albeit in other homes) with the addition of two daughters-in-law, a grandson and two granddaughters. Judy became a board member after she was asked by longtime neighbor, Greg Goodearl, if she would help out. Judy is still thankful to live in this neighborhood, and looks forward to getting to know more of her fellow community members.

A BIG Thank You to our

Garage Sale Team

Melissa Gallagher

Nancy Thomas

Ea Matrisciano Damuth

It was a well organized
community event.

Looking forward to this becoming
an annual event again.