

**Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club
P.O. Box 33
Vienna, VA 22183**

September 2023 Newsletter

**FALL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
4:00 PM, RAIN OR SHINE, CLUB GROUNDS
If you cannot attend, please send in your postage-paid proxy card.**

Presidents Message

WOW, what a stellar summer we enjoyed and kudos to all of our staff for creating a safe, fun environment for all of us to enjoy! Outstanding work by Nancy Wanzer and her hard working staff, Dawn Dzruilla and her crew for their culinary delights at affordable prices, Tom Herman for leading the tennis program to new heights with younger and older players, Seth O'Dea leading our dive team to another successful campaign (we had 6 divers qualify for Nationals this year!!) and Dan Jacobs and his staff for the first winning season in 5 years as the swim team continues to improve in every area! Needless to say, we are privileged to have amazing leadership and we thank you all!

In other news, we have heard from our members and are excited to provide a revised senior guest pass for those interested in selling their memberships, but still have access to the pool. Those members who have 20 years or more of ownership can sell their share and receive (2) unlimited guests passes each year for five years. We are certain that this will be of interest to some of our members and we will have more details at our upcoming stockholders meeting being held on September 23rd at 4:00 pm.

Meanwhile in other areas, we have heard from you and appreciate your concerns over the status of the dormant baby pool.....Yuck!

What is the club going to do with the old baby pool area?

With multiple years of large capital improvement projects (including tennis court repaving), and expected/budgeted maintenance projects (white coating) and unexpected maintenance expenditures (water main breaks/and sand filtering tanks) our cash reserves don't allow us to address this eyesore right now.

The board has been diligent and fiscally responsible as we have always tried to schedule our capital improvements in advance so that from a budget standpoint, we are on track each year. The baby pool renovation would run around \$300k as we would shorten the overall size, have a zero-entry point and enlarge the deck area to incorporate more umbrellas. Additionally, our parking lot needs repaving (\$100K), drainage area on the tennis court area addressed (\$50k), tree work (\$20k) and various detailed work around the pool, tennis courts, clubhouse (\$100k) and work on the snack bar (10K). Suffice to say, we as a board, we want to hear from our members.

The board is proposing a dues increase of \$500 for both of the upcoming 2024 and 2025 seasons that would address these capital improvements. These increases would be in addition to the regular dues of \$695. Plans are for dues to revert to the dues cost of \$695 for the 2026 season. In addition, the board is proposing an increase in the non-use fee from \$100 up to a maximum of \$600 in the by-laws for the 2024 and 2025 season. The non-use fee is also planned to revert to \$100 for the 2026 season. We would like to discuss this in depth at our annual stockholders meeting scheduled at the pool on Saturday, September 23rd at 4:00 pm. It is imperative that we hear from our members on this proposal at this meeting. Please review the board meeting proposals found at the end of this newsletter for more detail. You may recall the board increased dues in 2022 in order to provide long overdue increases in pay across all of our pool and tennis employees.

In the meantime, we would welcome your thoughts and ideas - please send me a note at aj@oskuie.com.

Thank you for a fantastic season and I wish all of you a great fall season!

AJ Oskuie

Treasurer's Message – Dave Miller

Once again as we move towards the end of the summer, I have mixed emotions. I am sad to see another season at Vienna Woods draw to a close, but I am happy to see our staff and the kids I have watched grow over the summer embark on a new school year and all the excitement that it brings and for them to think about the memories they made this summer at Vienna Woods.

As AJ has indicated, we are seeking a one-time dues increase to cover some immediate capital items and some near-term capital items. The baby pool is clearly the most noticeable of the items we will be addressing. The other capital items are not as visible, but nonetheless very important and in some cases items we have put off for a while. Below is a short list of some of those items we need to address at Vienna Woods:

1. Upper parking lot: This lot needs an overlay/ top coat. If we put this off much longer, the cost will continue to increase, as the base will continue to deteriorate. Estimate: \$100k
2. Lane into the Tennis Courts: This needs paving work to address the large pot holes and the culvert under the driveway needs to be completely reworked. Estimate: \$50k
3. Tree work: Between new home construction killing trees and mid-life oak disease killing trees, our estimate is we could easily have \$20-30k of tree removal over the next couple of years.
4. Diving Boards: The diving boards will need to be re-surfaced in the next year or two (Yes, it has been 10+ years since we completed the pool renovation) and there is only one company that does this work. Estimate: \$30k
5. Main Water line into clubhouse: This was completed this spring and we arranged financing with the contractor. Balance owed: \$25k
6. Pump room plumbing matter: Early in the season, a pipe broke going into one of the sand filters, this will be addressed in the offseason: Estimate: \$5k
7. Grounds work: Decorative fence in the grove, entrance monument and decorative fence off Kingsley Estimate: \$5k
8. Lobby renovation: cabinets, countertop, and carpet. Estimate \$5k
9. Interior Pool Fence: As this fence ages, there are many posts that have rusted completely through and will need to be replaced...these posts are set in concrete, so the repair is costly. Estimate: \$15k

This is not a complete list, but I think illustrative of the important items we need to address at the club. Unlike the baby pool, no one is going to drive down the tennis court driveway for example and think to themselves...Wow! Vienna Woods did a great job fixing that culvert under the driveway, or...I really like that new main water line into the clubhouse....and I do not think many folks have pulled Sean O'Connell aside and complemented him on the awesome fence across the creek or that super-nice new gate, these are the items that need to be addressed to maintain the club.

We also have some large capital outlays coming our way in the next 5 years or so, the largest being a major white coating of the pool, which will cost several hundred thousand dollars.

And last but clearly not least, we still need to repay the loan we took out to renovate our tennis courts.

We as a board take our request for a two season dues increase and our role as stewards of Vienna Woods and your representatives very seriously. You may have noticed several board members working at the club over the summer on their own time addressing deferred maintenance in an effort to save the club money. Other examples include a swim team parent who took on a project of repairing timing boards as opposed to just purchasing new ones after they became non-functioning. One of our young adults and a former lifeguard took on a project to repair our pool chairs as opposed to buying new ones. These are just a couple of examples of areas where we help ourselves for the benefit of the club, because it is “our” club.

Many of our vendor relationships are with “friends of Vienna Woods” who provide services to the club at below market rates because they have a former or current connection to the club and know how much the club means to the community.

Finally, as all of us have experienced, it just plain costs more to run the club today than it did even 4 years ago (i.e., pre-covid). Everything from the price of the cheese for our cheese fries to the cost of tennis balls has all gone up.

As I mentioned, we as a board do not look lightly on our request for a one-time dues increase, but I hope my letter this year has shed some light on how we plan to spend your money to maintain and improve the club even when spending that money is not so easy to see.

Snack Bar – George Biles

What a great Summer!! Hoping all our members and renters were able to make it to our amazing snack bar, which is so ably run by our manager of 22 years Dawn Dzruilla and all of our dedicated staff!

Almost all our staff are the kids of our membership which makes for a very fun work environment. I am very proud of the hard work and service to membership from all the Snack Bar staff as they learn to work as a team, be consistent, neat, and friendly.

The Snack Bar staff work very hard for our membership. In addition to the daily hours, they staff for swim and dive meets, special events and cater parties in the grove and more!

Did you know that this summer we processed nearly 17,000 transactions! Ice cream was our top seller this year with over 5,200 purchased. The ever popular french fries were ordered 1,500 times as standalone items. Fries are also served with meal deals and a whopping total of over 8,300 orders of fries crossed our counter or nearly 90 every day! Airheads are very popular with kids buying over 2,500. Over 780 Chicken Tender meal deals were purchased! My favorites, Little Debbies, saw nearly 375 cross the pickup counter! People also liked the fruit cup (295), BLT (550), Garden Salad with Chicken (190) and the famous Bacon, Egg and Cheese Croissant served at home A meets sold over 260 times!!

We could not do any of the above without all our hard working and dedicated managers and staff. Please give them a “Thank You” when you see them! Until next summer!!

Rules and Operations – Adam Knudsen

Summer 2023 has been another successful season filled with fun at Vienna Woods. We had 18 new lifeguards on staff this year – many of whom grew up at Vienna Woods! Alya, Lauren and Kevin helped lead the staff as assistant managers and had a lot of fun doing so. Highlights of the season for staff include group swim lessons, poll of the day, Middle School Night, Patch Party, Fed the Guards Day, the greased watermelon challenge and of course the Crab Feast! We look forward to welcoming everyone back next summer in 2024!

A special thank you to our pool manager Nancy Wanzer for her expert management of the pool and lifeguard staff this summer –Nancy has managed our pool since Summer 2013 and we appreciate all her time and hard work!

Maintenance – Mark Wilson and Sean O’Connell

As mentioned above in the Treasurer’s note, inside and outside maintenance of the club is expensive and includes routine maintenance and the unexpected issues that occur in a facility built in 1959. In April, the main water line from Kinglsey to the pool house had to be completely replaced because of a major leak and the age of the line. This leak was discovered upon initial preparations for opening the pool. Throughout the summer, we have had several emergency repairs for broken foot showers that required plumbing and concrete replacement. Additional plumbing and electrical repairs were encountered this season as is expected with the aging utilities along with replacement of the pump room sand filters and repainting of the pool house entrance area.

Outside maintenance included replacement of the chain link fence over the creek, replacement of the gate on the service road over the creek, replacement of several sections of split rail fence on the property and ongoing tree work.

Tennis Program – Doug MacCall and Beth Grim

From Coach Tom Herman - As we get ready to close out our summer sessions, it has always been a good time for me to reflect on the season. This year, I would like to reflect on when it all started for me at VW, 33 years ago. In early 1990, I received a call from a friend (Kim Dillard, former Tennis Director at VW) telling me the Vienna Woods Swim - Tennis club Director/Head Tennis pro position was open and that I should apply. At the time I was the Tennis Director at Highland Swim-Tennis Club in McLean. The VW tennis board member at the time was Diana Stivinson. Diana and I met and within a couple weeks, I accepted the position. That first year, I directed the tennis programs at both sites, VW and Highlands. My reflection on this wonderful journey can be broken into several segments. Listed below are some of those things that I think are worth noting.

The Facility: In 1990 our courts were on 2 different levels, with a backboard on the fence between court 2 and 3. The tennis hut was a cinder block structure that served its purpose, storage for the balls, equipment, and a small desk. In 1993 or 1994 the lights were added to courts 1, 2 and 3. The long-standing fence was also repainted that year. Fast forward to Summer, 1998, big renovation, courts were redone completely, all on the same level. Over the course of the next 14 years, the courts were resurfaced 3 or 4 times. In 2012, the tennis hut was upgraded to its current look. Loft, skylights, AC, nice paint job and siding installed. The bathrooms received the same upgrade. After 22 years, it was time for another facelift, the courts were redone completely 2020, new fence was installed, court dividers added, spacing between each court was centered and pickle ball lines were added to courts 4 and 5.

The Staff: We have been fortunate to have the best Tennis Assistants in Northern Virginia during my tenure, too many to name them all. Our farm system as we like to call it, or most of our staff are the students that have been in the VW programs. Some of the earlier ones I remember, Andrew King, John Johnson, Suzanne Stivinson, Rachel Merrill, Nora Merrill, Shawn Batterton, Christine Cardenas, Nate Baldwin, Trisha Merrill then

later on Mariel Cardenas, Sophie Cardenas, John Nothaft, Luke Brinkman, Allie Potter, Allison Janowski, Campbell Wilson, Jonathan Mack, Amelia Crabtree, Evan Stoulburg, Alexa Hartley and Jack Schoeb, just to name a few. We have also had some great Assistant pro's, Aavo Tomkov, home grown former assistant, Mary Ellen Potter, current Assistant Kenny Day.

The Board: Diana Stivison, the Board member that hired me, she was a true visionary and advocate for the VW tennis program. Instrumental in getting the lights on courts 1,2 and 3 and 1st major renovation done. Steve Christofferson, worked along side Diana to assist with these early major projects. Wendy Hahn, then later Andy Ollis, Wendy's husband, were tremendous advocate for the program, during their tenure the numbers of participants more than doubled. Alan Curren, joined Andy and together they saw through a few court resurface jobs and the renovation of the tennis hut and bathrooms. Finally, Doug MacCall joined Alan and together they planted the seed and saw it through, a major renovation of the entire tennis facility completed in 2020. Beth Grim joined on with Doug and together they helped ensure the tennis court renovation was done properly in a timely fashion. We all owe these people a big thank you for all of their efforts on behalf of the tennis and pickle ball players among our membership.

Membership: Hands down the best membership base(families) in the DMV! What a blessing it has been to teach/coach the hundreds of kids, teenagers, and adults of all ages here at VW over my tenure. I feel very fortunate to have employed so many of our own to help teach and coach the younger students.

Finally, I must say that my tenure - longevity here Vienna Woods would not have been possible without my number one, Co-Professional, my wife Gretchen! She is a bigger part of this program than many know. We are team Herman! Gretchen has directed every aspect of our programs; we have done this together for 33 years.

2023 Summer Tennis Season: While this season is coming to end soon, but there is still a lot more tennis to play! The participation this Summer has been outstanding with over 100 campers, 110 Junior program members and 140 Adult players.

Our Adult and Junior teams both competed in the Northern Virginia Tennis League this year. Our Women's day B team and night C team were league champions. The boys and girls' junior teams were also at the top of their division, once again vying for the Outstanding Junior Program Award, which VW won last year!

A BIG Thank you to our adult team Captains, Cindy Weinberg, Lisa Greenfield, Mary Ellen Guissepe, Jann Cassidy and Andy Ollis for all their work lining up the team matches each week, with emails, phone calls, refreshments, setting up the Gazebo, and carpooling! Thank you to all our Board Members for all they do to make VW a great place to swim, play tennis and pickle ball! Special thanks to Doug MacCall and Beth Grimm our current tennis board members!

Congratulations to our graduating seniors, Alexa Hartley (US Coast Guard Academy), Kaitlyn Hartley (Virginia Tech) and Stuart Ludlum (Purdue)!

Swim Team – Tom Peterson

Vienna Woods had a winning season this Summer in Division 4! The success was even sweeter because we had 50 new families join the team (over 240 swimmers total) and 1/3 of our swimmers were 8 and Unders! The unity and spirit of our team was highlighted when we won the **Sportsmanship Award for Division 4.**

We had some great swimmers who broke records and won named recognition in all of NVSL:

- Finn McIntyre broke the Boys 13-14 Backstroke record

- Logan Siegrist broke the Boys 11-12 Backstroke record
- Elliott Rowan broke the Girls 13-14 Backstroke record
- Sophia Brown won the NVSL Community Service Award and Scholarship

Dive Team – Rachel Paci

The Vienna Woods Dive Team closed out the 2023 Season with a 2-3 record in NVSL Division 1. Even though we lost overall, all of our meets had a very tight margin. The kids had a very fun season learning the fundamentals with our new head coach, Seth O’Dea and all of our amazing assistant and junior coaches— Laura, Nick, Noah, and Dylan! We would like to congratulate all of our divers and coaches on a very successful season!

Special Events – Sada Guixens

We had such a fun and successful social summer at the pool this year! So thankful for all the support every one of our events receives from our members. We could not have done it without the energetic and hardworking snack bar and lifeguard staff – Thank you! We kicked off the summer season with Chris Devine, enjoyed another sold out annual crab feast, and all of the summer fun we have come to look forward to - Sunday adult swims, patch party and middle school night – something for everyone all summer!

Membership – Barbara Forrest

Vienna Woods continues to maintain a lengthy waitlist of over 1000 families and our annual turnover of new memberships remains at approximately 5% of the 750 memberships. This low turnover rate can be seen in the many longtime and loyal members of the club.

Decade	Number of active memberships
1959 – year club opened	1
1960-1969	7
1970-1979	12
1980-1989	34
1990-1999	115
2000-2009	145
2010-2019	301
2020-present	135

If you are thinking of selling your membership, or have membership questions, please visit the Membership page of the Vienna Woods website for information on selling, renting, or buying a membership. Members are encouraged to first consider selling their membership back through the club waitlist – this will help create movement on the wait list.

Reminder - Club Bylaws permit a member to sell their memberships directly only to the purchaser of their home or to an immediate family member. When this situation applies, please contact the Club's business office (email gwomack@viennawoods.org or phone at 703-938-0005) to obtain the necessary paperwork for this transaction.

Please note that annual dues are due March 5, 2024. A late fee is applied when the payment has not been received by the due date. Dues statements will be mailed out in early 2024 outlining the due date, fees, and the process to rent your share. This information can also be found on the Vienna Woods website at www.viennawoods.org.

I would like to add my many thanks to Gina Womack for the amazing support she provides to manage the daily business operations of our club!

The Nominating Committee of the Board has recommended the following slate of current Directors be re-elected at the Fall 2023 Stockholders' meeting for new three-year terms:

Adam Knudsen (Rules and Operations) – Adam was born and raised in Falls Church/Vienna where he attended Lemon Road Elementary, Kilmer Intermediate, Marshall High School, Virginia Tech (undergraduate) and Marymount University (Graduate School). Adam is a Director at ECS. Adam and his wife Sarah have 11-year old twins Rose and Cooper. Adam has lived in his current home in Vienna Woods since 1996 and has been a member at Vienna Woods since the late 90's. Adam and his family enjoy the pool very much as are committed to continuing the great tradition of Vienna Woods. Adam has enjoyed serving on the board since 2017 and would be honored to be elected to continue serving on the board and will continue to work hard to serve the members of the Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club.

Doug MacCall (Tennis) – Doug his wife Tara, whom he met at Mary Washington College, made Vienna Woods their summertime home shortly after moving to Vienna. After a few years on the waitlist, their lucky number came up in 2006. Doug's three grown children thoroughly enjoyed spending their summers on the VW swim and dive teams, playing in the Jr tennis program, working in the snack bar or as a lifeguard, handing out at the pool and having an absolute blast at the club's special event days. An avid tennis player, Doug continues to craft his tennis skills on the men's and mixed teams, having lettered playing tennis in both high school and college. His wife also plays tennis for the women's team and as Doug's partner on the court. Serving on the board since 2013, Doug is committed to making Vienna Woods the best summertime home.

Kelly Wolfe (Communications) – Growing up as an Army "brat," Kelly did not have many ties to communities as a child. When she moved to Vienna, however that changed. At Vienna Woods Kelly has found the perfect example of how the community comes together to socialize and support their kids in swimming, diving and tennis. Kelly has lived in Vienna for over 10 years. She is married with one daughter who has just finished her last Vienna Woods summer swim season as a senior and who also works as a lifeguard at the pool. Along with "living" at the pool during the summer, Kelly hods a full-time job in international public health. She is committed to helping less fortunate people domestically and in developing countries especially women and vulnerable children. She likes to work with a group of people towards a common goal, and she would be honored to continue to serve on the Board of Directors for Vienna Woods.

Barbara Forrest (Membership and Secretary) –

Barbara has long ties with Vienna Woods as both a member and a Vienna Woods swimmer and lifeguard back in the day. Barbara, her husband Brent, and son Tucker are long time Vienna residents and enjoy all that Vienna Woods summers have to offer. She has enjoyed serving on the board over the last 3 years and would be honored to continue to work hard ensuring Vienna Woods remains the pool we all know and love.

Annual Stockholder Meeting
September 23, 2023
Vienna Woods Pool (Rain or Shine)
4:00 pm

If you have any questions about the upcoming annual fall meeting, or about the Board nominees list and their qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact the club. The best way to contact the club is to send an email with "ATTENTION: President" in the subject line, addressed to our Club Administrator and Webmaster, Gina Womack (gwomack@viennawoods.org).

Dear Members –

Two changes to the Bylaws have been considered and recommended by the Board of Directors for a vote at the September 23, 2023 annual stockholder meeting. The specific changes to the Bylaws are:

- To raise the annual dues by \$500, from \$695 to \$1,195 for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. This increase will be in addition to the \$695 dues for each of the two seasons with the intention that for the 2026 season and after, the dues will revert to the dues amount of \$695. This dues increase will be aimed at capital improvements around the club facilities.
- To raise the non-use fee of \$100 to a maximum of \$600 for any member who rents their share for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. This increase will revert to the non-use fee of \$100 for the 2026 season. This non-use fee increase will be aimed at capital improvements around the club facilities.

Specifically, the proposals would change:

The first sentence of Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws as follows:

"SECTION 4. The stockholders of each share of stock shall pay to the Corporation an annual fee of one thousand, one hundred and ninety-five ~~six hundred and ninety-five~~ (\$1,195~~695~~) by the fifth day of March, following the issuance of the share of stock by the Corporation, and thereafter annually by the fifth of March in each succeeding year 2024 and 2025 only."

The first sentence of Article III, Section 9 subsection e of the Bylaws as follows:

"SECTION 9, subsection e. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 9.b, 9.c, and 9.d, above, the Board shall have the discretion to charge an annual fee not to exceed \$600 ~~\$100~~ to each member applying for or requesting permission to make a seasonal (or partial seasonal) rental of his or her membership for the 2024 and 2025 seasons only."

The primary rationale for recommending an increase in the dues and non-use fee is to better position the Club to address capital expenses which are required now and expected over the next several years. In addition to the project and expenditures which we described above in the annual newsletter (e.g., the baby pool refurbishment), we are anticipating other infrastructure needs in the near- to mid-term as also mentioned. These include – but are not necessarily limited to – projects like: repaving our upper parking lot and repairing/repaving the access road to Kingsley Road from the lower parking lot; pool whitecoat replacement; continuing to manage the health of the trees surrounding the pool and tennis facilities (and arranging for the removal of unhealthy trees which could injure members and guests or cause damage to property); and,

replacing/enhancing our pool's water flow, filtration and pumping facilities and resurfacing of the pools beloved diving boards.

The board has worked diligently over the years to maintain high quality facilities and reasonable membership dues. While the reasonable rates at Vienna Woods have not been used as a rationale for raising the dues, it may interest members to know that our dues have been similar to or lower than other pools with substantially smaller facilities.

The proposed dues increase will provide the funding needed to improve and maintain our beautiful and extensive facilities and will still be very competitive with clubs with smaller or less comprehensive facilities.

We have attempted to provide this notice with extra time for you to consider the proposal, ask questions of Board members, and arrange for a proxy vote if you cannot attend the meeting. Our goal (subject to printing and mailing) is that you will have time to consider the proposed changes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let one of us know.

Sincerely,

A.J. Oskuie, for the Board

- President: A.J. Oskuie
- Vice President and Snack Bar: George Biles
- Treasurer: Dave Miller
- Rules and Operations: Adam Knudsen
- Secretary and Membership: Barbara Forrest
- Dive Team: Rachel Paci
- Swim Team: Tom Peterson
- Tennis: Beth Grim and Doug MacCall
- Special Events: Sarah Guixens
- Inside and Outside Maintenance: Sean O'Conner and Mark Wilson
- Information Technology: Chris Oskuie
- Member at Large/Communications: Kelly Wolfe
- Member at Large: Mary Burrows