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## Fall/Winter Newsletter 2021 Wrap Up



Community Volunteers - 2021



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### 2021 – A Comeback Year!

After the pandemic lockdown and social distancing in 2020, this past year turned into a “revitalization” for Winter Camp Park (WCP).

The season started with a fantastic turn out of volunteers in the spring to get the park ready. For the other cleaning events and the winterizing of the park, you, the volunteers always step up to help and we appreciate your help!

On Memorial Day weekend, WCP hosted a Woods Community and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, as a thank you to the community and our volunteers. Even though the weather was cool for the end of May, the turnout was good, the food was delicious, and the comradery was the best.

In September, two of our corporate sponsors (Fairway Home Services and Artisan Kitchens & Countertops) presented a Bluegrass Festival with attendance exceeding all expectations. Between the music, food and the great weather, everyone had a great time.

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### Social Hours – OUTSTANDING!

This was a banner year for the Wednesday Socials. These socials began in October 2017, right after the first pavilion was completed. They started out with about 6 -12 people, and hors d'oeuvres (e.g., cheese and crackers, chips and

dip) were brought. This has grown substantially in the subsequent four years. It has now become a weekly potluck dinner, with salads to main meals to desserts! Many folks like to try out new dishes on this “foodie” crowd. If you went home hungry; it was your fault! Attendance has grown from about 20 weekly folks in 2020 to 35-40 this year. OUTSTANDING! This has been an ideal way for the many new homeowners to meet other new and veteran neighbors.

Sneak Peek: Starting in 2022, there will also be a “Friday Potluck” just like the Wednesday Socials, as a more convenient time for folks who only come up on weekends. Look for more details in the Spring.

If you didn’t make it to the Socials in 2021, put it on your New Year’s Resolution List to make it to one or both in 2022!

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## **Park & Pavilion Activities**

Yes, the pavilions in the park are available to be reserved by Woods homeowners and residents for personal use, as was used many, many times this year. In addition to the weekly Wednesday Socials, the pavilions were reserved for: birthday parties, farewell parties, band practices, church potlucks, committee meetings and discussion groups, family reunions, golf group gatherings, hiking club events, painting group gatherings, and even a Homeschool Forest school and a wedding reception.

The fabulous WHOA Fall Festival (pictures below) closed out the season with music provided by our talented community musicians, crafts for sale by some of our artistic residents, and hot beverages and a BBQ food truck.





If you would like to reserve one of the pavilions, please use the [Reserve Pavilion form](#) on the website. There is electric in the first pavilion along with lots of tables and serving tables, and there is a volleyball net in the center field (bring your own equipment). A propane grill is available if requested, and a Porta Potty is available from April thru October. Reservations can be made for dates from April through October. Normally the last week of March and the first week of November are used for the spring opening and winter preparation of the park.

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## **Come Take a Walk This Winter!**

Although the scheduled social events have concluded for the year, Winter Camp Park continues to be open through the colder months for those who want to walk the park's paths or use it as an entry point into the hiking trails of Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area. While waiting for warmer weather and spring foliage to arrive, please come and enjoy the crisp air and the more streamlined look that winter brings to the park.

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## **Our Generous Neighbors and Friends**



The very generous monetary contributions from our neighbors this year were phenomenal! They allowed us to make huge improvements to the park. With those funds, we removed 11 large dead trees that were surrounding the main pavilion and the power lines. The middle grassy area was significantly improved by removing diseased trees, adding truckloads of gravel and dirt to flatten the area, and planted grass. This greatly enhanced the area where we normally setup a stage for summer musical events. Additionally, we cleared an

area for the future bathrooms and storage building and began work with the county about water and sewer hookups. Our estimated cost for this project is \$25-30k for which we will need enhanced contributions **next year** to complete. Below is our concept of the block/steel construction of the building.



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## Corporate Friends of Winter Camp Park



We are pleased to introduce our neighbor and newest Corporate Sponsor, Elisabeth Vismans. Elisabeth listens, guides, and inspires creative experiences. She was born and raised in the Netherlands and has dual citizenship. Before she moved to the Woods in 2020, she lived for twenty years in Howard County, Maryland. Besides an Award-Winning Visual Artist, Elisabeth is a Certified Life Coach, a Certified NLP Practitioner, and an Art Instructor in the Yellow Barn in Glen Echo, MD. Her colorful and energetic oil paintings are mostly inspired by nature. Currently she teaches abstract and flower painting classes on Zoom. She also facilitates Intuitive Painting, Visual Journaling, and Paint & Wine events. More information can be found by clicking on her logo below. Make an appointment if you would like to visit her studio.

Two years ago, we started the Corporate Friends initiative asking businesses that serve The Woods residents to become a yearly corporate sponsor of the park. Ten (10) companies became sponsors this year. Letters will soon be sent to those, asking for renewal and to other businesses which support the Woods community to participate in this program for a yearly donation of at least \$250. As you click on the corporate sponsors' logo it will take you to their respective website or email address. Check out the [Supporters](#) page on how you can help. If you use any of our supporters, mention that you saw their ad in the WCP Newsletter and thank them for their support.

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- If you know of anyone in The Woods community who is not receiving this mailing, please forward this email to them and have them provide us with their email address.

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