

# CHESOPEIAN COLONY CIVIC LEAGUE

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007



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## 2006-2007 Officers and Directors of the Civic League

**Tony Montville**  
President

**Brooks Gornto**  
Director

**Linda Hill**  
Immediate Past President

**Bill Thesier**  
Director

**John Vest**  
Vice President

**Bob Brown**  
Director

**Betty Kennedy**  
Secretary

**Kevin Knight**  
Director

**B J Taylor**  
Treasurer

**Ron Hess**  
Director

**Curtis Vest**  
Director

### Your Civic League Dues In-Action

#### **A special note from your Treasurer:**

It is that time of year again to ask you to join or renew your membership in the Chesopeian Colony Civic League. The League's sole purpose is to keep Chesopeian Colony one of the most sought after communities in Virginia Beach in which to live and raise a family. The following is just a partial list of how your dues are spent to maintain this community's standing as one of the best in Virginia Beach:

- Maintaining the beautiful entrance to the Colony, including the sprinkler system and lawn service
- Printing newsletters and flyers to keep you informed of what's happening in our community
- A 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and picnic for our families that is unmatched in this city
- Halloween party for all ages with prizes and goodies for everyone
- Christmas decorations at the entrance to the colony

- Organize and run the Neighborhood Watch Program to alert everyone of security issues in the Colony
- Taxes, insurance, and utilities for the entrance property owned by the Colony
- Contributions (VB Rescue Squad and the Foundry United Methodist church where we hold our civic league meetings, etc.)

The dues this year are only \$50 per household to support these worthwhile expenses. Our fiscal year is from March 1, 2007 – February 2, 2008. Last year 189 out of 270 families paid their annual Civic League dues and helped to keep the Colony among the best communities in Virginia Beach. I strongly encourage every family to join or renew their membership. In addition to helping maintain our neighborhood, you get to meet your neighbors and make new friends at the meetings and annual events.

The dues invoice and a pre-addressed envelope are included with this issue of the newsletter for your convenience. A collection container will be at my front door if you prefer to hand carry your dues. The container is checked each day my wife or I are home.

Again, our goal is 100% participation. For you long-time members, Thank You! For our first time members, Welcome Aboard – hope to see you at a meeting soon!

B J Taylor, Treasurer  
Phone 486- xxxx

### **President's Note**

It's springtime in the Colony once again! Hello everyone. As we all look forward to pulling out our garden tools and enjoying all that spring has to offer, I'd like to reflect on my first year as president of the Civic League. What stands out most are the people I've gotten to know. There are a group of very hard working people in our community that deserve a lot of credit for all they contribute. The past Civic League officers as well as the current, give of their time and effort to ensure that the Heritage in our fine community is preserved. When ever there is a problem or an issue, people seem to dive in and help each other in a way that is unique in today's hurried society.

As we move forward in 2007, there are several initiatives we will be undertaking. We will continue our wonderful traditions of our Fourth of July

Parade and the Halloween party. We will also be working on a few Colony beautification projects. You will be hearing updates on our dredging project which continues to make progress; we will be resolving the lighting issues that have plagued the front signs of the subdivision and we are putting together a plan to refurbish all of the street signs in the neighborhood.

We will also be creating a new neighborhood directory this year. We've had a lot of new neighbors come into the Colony in the 5 years since the last directory was published and we look forward to a fresh up to-date-listing of who's who in the Colony.

Attached to this newsletter you will find your annual invoice for Civic league dues. We have a lot to accomplish this year and we can't do it without your support. The time and effort that goes into these initiatives are for the benefit of everyone in the Colony. So please get your dues to the Civic league treasurer as soon as you can.

Once again please share in my gratitude to all of the people in our community who give up their time to make the neighborhood what it is. Not just the Civic League, but the volunteers in the Neighborhood Watch Program and our block captains who keep a look out for us, and the Garden Club who helps keep the Colony beautiful; all of the volunteers for our parties and the members of the dredging committee. The list is long and I personally thank all of you.

### **Colony Cars Ransacked, Some Items Stolen**

During the night of January 4th, several cars in the Colony were opened and the contents either removed or ransacked. In NO case was there a report of a break-in or damage to doors or locks. It appears that all victimized vehicles were left unlocked. An increasing number of larcenies from motor vehicles are reported to the Virginia Beach Police Department, and many more go unreported. In approximately half of the cases reported to police, victims state they left their vehicles unlocked with valuables, such as purses, laptops, and electronic equipment, in plain sight. When personal information is stolen, these crimes can lead to more serious crimes, such as identify theft, burglary, or even crimes of violence when a criminal discovers where the victim resides.

Criminals always look for an "easy target." By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce your likelihood of becoming a victim of theft:

- Always lock up your vehicle and take your keys with you.

- Make sure all valuables are out of sight, preferably locked in the trunk. Criminals often break out windows to get to valuables they see inside locked vehicles.
- Never leave personal information in your vehicle.
- Park in well-lighted, easily visible areas at night.
- Immediately report any suspicious persons or behavior (e.g. individuals looking into parked vehicles) to 911 Emergency Communications.

For further crime prevention information, contact Kelly E. Davis, Master Police Officer, Virginia Beach Police Crime Prevention Unit; Office: (757) 385-1371

### **Dredging Update**

The dredging project continues to move forward slowly. At this point, the channels have all been staked out and a second site visit with the regulatory agencies was held on March 12th. The last known open issue to complete the permit application is Mr. McLeskey's ownership of some of the river bottom which we plan to dredge and the boat ramp which we would like to use as a transfer site. Mr. McLeskey has historically supported projects like this, but has not yet approved the necessary paperwork. We are in contact with his office to set up a meeting to find resolution.

Once we get the final paperwork submitted, we plan to schedule a neighborhood meeting to review the details and next steps that have to be accomplished once we have approval. We'll be able to talk more specifically with the dredging companies and have to make plans to raise the balance of the funds required to complete the project.

Please feel free to call any of the members of the dredging board:

Frank Gurdziel	Steve Merz	Barbra Mistron
George Dancigers	Mike Waro	Wayne Woolwine

### **Mulch at the Entrance**

The Board of Directors of the Colony would like to say “Thank You” to Rusty and Tim of KATWOOD MULCH for providing and installing, **at no charge**, the beautiful mulch at the entrance to the Colony.

Please take a moment to read their flyer that is included with this newsletter.

## Garden Club's Golden Anniversary

The members of the Garden Club would like to welcome all the newcomers to our lovely neighborhood and hope that you will consider joining the women of our club who have dedicated themselves to the beautification of the Colony for 50 years. Yes, we are celebrating our golden anniversary in 2007. We hope to make this a very special year and we invite the new residents as well as those who have been here a while to come join us and see just what we do behind the scenes.

In celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the club is planning a special cookbook comprised of favorite recipes of garden club members past and present. The book is being professionally prepared and soon will be available to residents to purchase. The cost is \$10 and orders are being taken by Suedean Moser at 486-2606. Your support is highly appreciated as the proceeds will go towards enhancing our front entrance. It also will be available at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic.

The Garden Club has been involved in many projects over the years, including the decorating of the colony for Christmas and the design our unique entrance. We enjoy learning all about gardening, plants, flower arranging and other decorating ideas. We are a member of the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach which promotes the beautification of our city and state. We support several community organizations. Last but not least, we enjoy the fellowship of getting to know our neighbors. Every year we celebrate with our spouses and guests at a holiday party in the winter and a garden party in the summer.

At present, we meet for a luncheon and meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Princess Anne Country Club, but encourage those who cannot attend a day time meeting to join as an associate member at a reduced rate. We also plan special excursions. Dues are only \$35 a year. Please call Gretchen Hardy @ 431- xxxx or Shelly Gram @ 431- xxxx or Betty Kennedy @ 340- xxxx to discuss membership options. You may also email Gretchen. Her email address is atlantic2@cox.net.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gretchen Hardy for her leadership as President over the last three years and Suedean Moser as our ongoing Treasurer. We also extend sincere thanks to the ladies who have devoted their time to planting our entrance gardens. Very special thanks go out to B J Taylor and Ron Hess who put up our Christmas lights, and have also helped maintain the gardens.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> of July Parade and Picnic

Only three months until our big celebration! This year we hope it to be better and bigger than ever in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> year since the landing of Captain John Smith, which is being celebrated all over the city and the state. We hope that all of you will participate and make this the best ever. Please – we need lots of volunteers as well as participants. We hope that some of the newer residents will come out and help in some small way – and the teenagers can be a big help too. Be thinking about floats, your bikes, and perhaps this year a few patriotic costumes! Remember, our Chesopeian Colony was the site of the Chesopeian Indians before the settlers came. Let's remember them as well. Show your patriotism and come join the fun!

We want to thank all of the many devoted volunteers who helped us last year. There are too many to list at this time but most of them have been serving the Colony for many years – we hope they all will be able to help us again for this special year as well as many more new helpers. Please, remember without them, we would not have a parade or picnic. WE NEED YOU TO HELP THEM! Special thanks go to our Vice President, John Vest for his leadership in coordinating the picnic and Curtis Vest who organized the parade. Then there are the devoted workers who prepare and serve the food. If you haven't done it before, come and help. We will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting or call any of our board members.

Each year someone is chosen for their contributions to the community to be the grand marshal and lead the parade. If you would like to suggest someone who has not been grand marshal before, then call one of the officers of the board with your suggestion. We also would like to have a marching band this year. If any of you can play an instrument or know of any high school students that would like to participate, please call Betty Kennedy at 340-8975. Remember – we need those teenagers to participate!

Last years first place winners by age categories were:

Bikes - Ethan and Owen Comeyne (0-3); Zach Earl (4-6); Mimi & Brook Albano (7-9); Tristan Cates (10-12); Emily Daughtrey (13-15)

Go-Carts, Scooters and Antique Cars, all ages: 1<sup>st</sup> - Josiah Merrell;

2<sup>nd</sup> - Gawne family; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Alex Brent

Floats – all ages: 1<sup>st</sup> – The Curtis Vest Family; 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Mayo Family

## Respect our Flag



### U.S. Flag Code (4 US Code 1) (Excerpts)

#### **Sec. 6. - Time and occasions for display**

(a) It is the universal custom to **display the flag only from sunrise to sunset** on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day **if** properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

#### **Sec. 8. - Respect for flag**

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; ...

(b) **The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.**

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but **always aloft and free.**

(e) **The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.**

(i) **The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever.** It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like.

(k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

### Quiz for Drivers

1. You are leaving Chesopeian Colony and desire to turn left (east) onto Virginia Beach Boulevard. You should:
  - a. Flash your lights and blow your horn as you start your turn through traffic;
  - b. Instead of turning left, turn right and then make a U-turn;
  - c. Stop and then yield to all other traffic;
  - d. Take turns with traffic turning left into the Colony from the Boulevard;
  - e. All of the above.

In your heart of hearts you probably know that the correct answer is “c”, but the last time you left the Colony, there’s a fair chance that you tried to make “d”

work. Sooner or later we will have collision of a departing resident and a car entering from the Boulevard. Boulevard traffic has the right of way. Why? Because departing Colony traffic is encumbered by a dictatorial STOP sign. Be careful out there!

2. You are driving on the Colony streets. You should:

- a. Go as fast as you can;
- b. Drive in the middle of the street;
- c. As quickly as possible go around school buses stopped with their red lights blinking while off loading children;
- d. Try doing a ‘wheely’ while proceeding down Chesopeian Trail;
- e. Maintain your speed at **25 miles per hour or less**, stop while school buses are off loading children and follow all other rules regarding driving on city streets;
- f. All of the above.

The correct answer is of course “e”. Remember there are children going back and forth to school and playing on these streets. How would you feel if you hit one of your neighbor’s children?

### **Pet Sitter/Pet Walker**

Several of the Colony residents have expressed a need for pet sitters/walkers. If anyone is interested in performing these important tasks please provide the following information about yourself to B J Taylor, Treasurer @ 2633 South Kings Road:

- a. Name
- b. Age
- c. Address
- d. Phone Number

There is a collection container at B J’s front door where you can deposit the above requested information. Please indicate whether you would like to be included in a list of pet sitters/walkers in the next newsletter.

### **Wildlife Rehabilitators**

There are several wildlife rehabilitators living in Virginia Beach. The wildlife rehabilitators perform this service on their own without local government support. One of these is Evelyn's Wildlife Refuge; it is a non-profit organization. On Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> the organization is sponsoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mt. Trashmore WALK FOR THE WILDLIFE WALKATHON. Your support is needed to keep this group active. Contributions: \$ 5.00 to Walk; \$10.00 to Walk and enter a raffle for many exciting gifts and \$15.00 to Walk, enter the raffle, and receive a Free T-Shirt. Registration is from 9:00 – 10:00 AM at Mount Trashmore. Contact B J Taylor at 486-3056 for more info on the Walkathon and Evelyn's Wildlife Refuge.

PS: For you wildlife lovers. In the event you still have your paper from Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, there is a very interesting as well as touching article on page B2 concerning the refuge saving the lives of four baby opossums found in their dead mother's marsupial pouch. The mother had been hit by a car. I have copies of the article in the event you don't still have your paper. Please feel free to call. BJ

### **Colony Civic League Meeting**

The next Colony Civic League meeting will be held at 7:00 pm Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April at the Foundry United Methodist Church. The church is located directly across from the entrance to the Colony on Virginia Beach Blvd. There is a parking lot available right behind the church. Signs will direct you from the rear door of the church to the correct meeting room. Your attendance at the meeting is encouraged and a great chance to meet more of your neighbors or renew acquaintance with those you haven't seen in a while. We will be voting on the 2007 board of directors as well as discussing planned Colony actions and events for the coming year.