

Chesopeian Colony

"On the Lynnhaven River"

June 2010

www.chesopeiancolonycivicleague.org

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Message from the President

Todd Lovelace 431-8344

Hello Colonists! What a beautiful spring! It wasn't too long ago we all were freezing and wondering if it would ever warm up. Now, the azaleas have bloomed, the pollen is behind us and the pool is finally warm enough for adults!

Before I address the state of the Colony, I want to remind everyone of our next few events. Our second annual Shred Day is June 19th. This is a great way to jump start your spring cleaning and get rid of your confidential paperwork in a secure manner. There is no cost to drop paper off, but a donation is always accepted to help offset some of the costs.

On Tuesday June 22, we will have our next civic league meeting at the Foundry United Methodist Church at 7:30pm. The meetings are very efficient and take about 45 minutes to an hour. There will not be a speaker or presentation, rather officers/committee chairs will give brief reports. I encourage all to participate.

As you know, the Colony's 4th of July Picnic and Parade are fast approaching. We hope you will schedule that time to join us to watch the parade and enjoy the picnic with your friends and neighbors. This year the event is organized by your VP- Janet Webster, with many returning volunteers. Cassie and Mike Hillian are returning as the Activity Directors and they have more activities planned this year including adult games. There is plenty of room and need for more volunteers, so if you have some time please contact Janet and let her know you would like to help. It's a great way to meet more neighbors! I also wanted to remind people that seating is limited at the front so if you want a chair, you should plan on bringing one.

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SECRET STREET NUMBERS? *by Ron Hess*

What do these folks have in common?

Letter carrier; UPS delivery; FedEx; Fire Department; Rescue Squad; Newspaper delivery person; and your visitors.

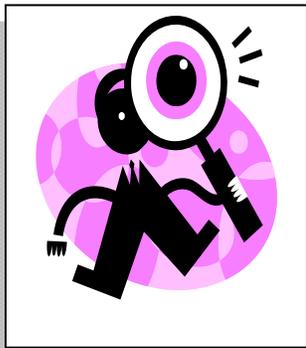
Answer: They all depend on a clear display of your house numbers.

As you walk through Chesapeake Colony you will find some homes with no visible numbers, some with numbers so far away from the street that they are not recognizable, some which have little contrast with their background, and some which are partially hidden by shrubbery. Many of the numbers which are easily seen during the day virtually disappear at night. The following information is provided by a well-known authority (<http://tipthepizzaguy.com>), and is condensed here for your reference:

Ordinary Address Number Mistakes

1. Brass or bronze numbers. This is essentially an "invisible" number. This number is invisible in the day and useless at night. It will blend in with any surrounding background. These numbers are horrible. Please don't get a brass or a bronze number. You are wasting your money.
2. The number is written in handwriting. It looks fancy but it's very hard to see from the road. We need a plain Arabic number.
3. The number is too far from the porch light. Sometimes the number is too close and the light can outshine it. The number should be about twelve inches from the light. Often it's impossible to see the number at night with the porch light turned off. Make sure the light is on, even in the near dusk hours.
4. Part of the number is missing. We can forgive you if the first digit is gone, but not the last one.
5. The number is too small. You have to get out of the car and walk to get close enough to read it. Sometimes you can't tell it's a number from the road. House numbers should be four inches high.
6. The number on the house is only two feet above the ground. Some numbers are on the grass line or porch floor. The number should be displayed at eye level or higher.
7. The number is on the face of the front door. This is a very bad place to put it because people tend to leave the door wide open. That will hide the number completely out of view. Sometimes people hang stuff on the door and it blocks or partially obscures the number.
8. The number is the same color as the house. It blends in like a chameleon.
9. The number has a light color and the house has a light color. For example, a brass number on yellow or white. You need a black number or any dark color.

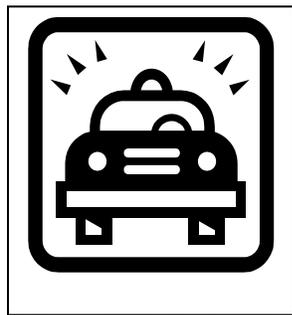
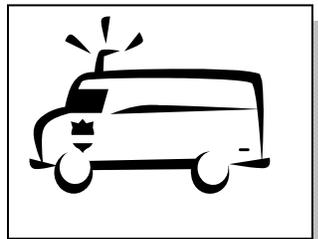
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Secret Numbers continued.....

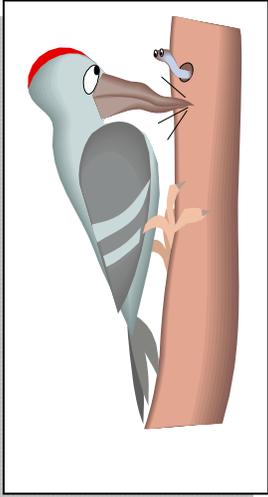
10. The number is a dark color and so is the house. It might be black numbers on brick. This situation calls for a white number. Please get a number with a light color for a dark background.
11. The so-called "front" door is set back from the front of the house. Sometimes the "front" door is located on the side of the house. In this case, the number belongs on the actual front of the house.
12. The number is on the overhang above the front porch. At night, the number is directly in front of the light. This outshines the number. Sometimes the number is shadowed by the overhang. Either way, you can't see the number at all. Please put the number on the same wall as the light so the light can shine on the number.
13. Sixes that look like eights. Ones that look like sevens. The more fancy the number looks, the harder it is to distinguish at a distance. We need a plain font style.
14. Some individual numbers come with their own background. When you arrange them to form the house number, you need to make the backgrounds touch so there is one large background. If there is a gap between backgrounds, the numbers will blur when seen from a distance.
15. Christmas, Halloween, or any other holiday decorations that obstruct the number. Sometimes they block the number completely. Please make sure to decorate around the number.
16. Silver numbers on black background. This color scheme is not visible.
17. Stone engravings with no distinct color for the number. You can't see the number at any distance. It blends in with the rest of the stone. The number needs a color of its own, distinct from the background.
18. Wood engravings. From a distance, wood engraved numbers are very difficult to see.
19. Motion detector porch lights. They don't activate until you get close. By then, you're usually on foot and this is way too late. We need a constant porch light.
20. The number is posted on a vertical column. There is not enough background. Sometimes the porch light shines from behind the column so you can't see the number at all.
21. The house is set back from the road. You can't see the number because it is too far away. In this case, the number does not belong on the house. You need a lawn sign next to the road.
22. Long houses with the number far away from the front door. It's bad enough when the number is over the garage door. The number needs to be in the general area of the front door.
23. The number is spelled out in Roman numerals.
24. The number is displayed vertically or diagonally. This isn't much of a problem, but people tend to associate by reading left to right. It's more difficult to notice other patterns from a distance.

Please examine your own house for proper display of your house numbers. It could be a life-saver!



Sightings Around the Colony *by BJ Taylor*

BJ Taylor reported he has recently seen a pileated woodpecker at his suet feeder. BJ noted it is the first one he has seen in the Colony since he and Carol moved here in 1996. It is the largest of the woodpeckers; about the size of an adult crow.



In addition, a pair of brown thrashers, as well as other species of birds, have been routinely visiting his suet feeder. While this is not so unique, what is interesting is the fact that one of the thrashers has only one leg which makes landing/eating on the suet feeder rather difficult. BJ modified his suet feeder in an attempt to make it easier for the one thrasher. The one-legged thrasher appears otherwise healthy, and it would seem that the pair is busy feeding their young since after eating their fill of suet they always leave the feeder with a mouth full of suet rather than eating it.

For the second year in a row, BJ reports that a pair of yellow-crowned night herons has nested in a pine tree in Linda & Matt Wheeler's front yard. They have returned to the same nest that they successfully built and raised a family in last year. At this point there appears to be three young herons in the nest and the mother and father are keeping busy feeding them. Their nest hangs out over the Wheeler's drive way so they have to park their two cars in particular locations otherwise their cars will be bombarded with colorful droppings. Linda said she could tolerate it since they will all leave the nest in about six weeks to two months.

Treasurer's Note

As of June 1, 168 residents have paid their 2010 dues. In addition, our residents have contributed \$465 to the Chesapeake Colony Scholarship Fund. Remember the dues are only \$50 per family for the year. Don't forget that I have a container at my front door that you can drop your dues-check in and save \$ 0.44.

A special thanks to the 168 residents who have paid their dues and for those who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund.

B J Taylor, 486-3056



100% participation is our goal!

Attention Saltwater Anglers *by George Coleman*

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission wants your fish carcasses. You catch it, you fillet it, but instead of throwing the remains in the trash, please donate them to science.

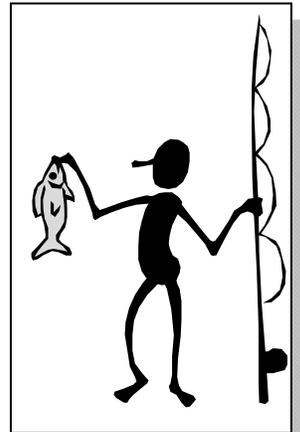
Since July 2007, freezers to collect these donations have been placed at bait and tackle shops around the Chesapeake Bay region, as part of the Marine Sportfish Collection Project. The project focuses on species of fish that are difficult to collect through the agency's normal sampling program. Anglers are asked to donate their filleted carcasses (head and tail intact) of fresh-caught cobia, spadefish, sheepshead, red and black drum, tautog, mackerel (king and spanish), tilefish, grouper and large bluefish (over 16 pounds or 36 inches).

Scientists study the length, age, and sex of the fish. The information helps the state agency assess the health of these fish populations without collecting large numbers of live fish to study. As a result, this project will leave more fish out there for you to catch next time.

For the science geek in you, the age of the fish is determined by analyzing the rings of the otolith, a small bone that develops rings of variable growth in the summer and winter, similar to the growth of rings in trees.

In return for participating in the project, the agency will provide a Tee shirt (a fish skeleton around a VMRC logo), hat, boat whistle or measuring tape for each participant per month of the donation. Also, VMRC will post specific information about your donated fish on the agency's website, including information on the sex and age of your catch.

Visit Long Bay Pointe Marina or the Virginia Beach Fishing Center in Virginia Beach, Wallace's Bait and Tackle or Buckroe Fishing Pier in Hampton, or Chris' Bait and Tackle in Capeville.



Mark Your Calendars!

Civic League meetings will be on the following dates in 2010

June 22nd
and
October 19th

7:30 PM at the
Foundry United
Methodist
Church



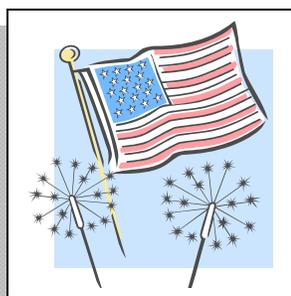
SHRED DAY AT THE COLONY ***RAIN OR SHINE***

Your Civic League is **again** sponsoring a Free On-Site Document Shredding Day. It will be held Saturday June 19, 2010 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. It is time for everyone to shred their old confidential/personal records that you have been storing in bags and cardboard boxes in your attic and garage. Identity theft is growing so help to protect your identity by shredding those personal papers that you don't need. Shred day is **free to all Chesopeian Colony residents**. Donations will be accepted to help reduce our cost.

We want to keep the shred truck as busy as possible during the 3-hour period. Therefore you are encouraged to invite a friend(s) to bring his/her documents for shredding; it will be free to them also (small businesses are also welcome). As noted above donations will be accepted to help reduce our cost.

The shred truck will be located in the cul-de-sac at the end of Apasus Trail. There is no need for you to remove staples, paper clips, binder clips, etc. **However, the truck will not shred cardboard or plastic.**

Should you have questions please feel free to contact BJ Taylor via email at gizmosassy@verizon.net or by phone at 486-3056.



Fourth of July Picnic!

*If you
can help,
Contact
Janet Webster
at
janetwebster
@cox.net*

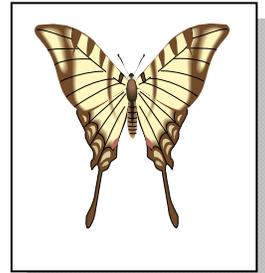
STREET CLOSING NOTICE . . . PLEASE NOTE!

All Colony residents are alerted to the closing of Chesopeian Trail for the duration of the annual Fourth of July Colony parade. The parade will form at the north end of the Colony and proceed south to Virginia Beach Boulevard. Side streets will be restricted from entering Chesopeian Trail for that period, approximately 10:30 AM until 10:50 AM. Please exercise extreme caution in the area of the festivities.

Butterfly Season in the Colony *by BJ Taylor*

As you may or may not know, I am the President of the Butterfly Society of Virginia. The Society was established in 1992. It is a non-profit organization whose purposes are education, conservation and promotion of butterfly gardening and habitat provision. Therefore, many of our members raise the caterpillars and release the butterflies when they emerge from chrysalis. Generally speaking the most common butterfly in this area is the Eastern Black Swallowtail. Every butterfly has its own particular host plant(s). The host plant is the plant that the female lays her eggs on and the plant that the resulting caterpillars eat. The host plants of the Eastern Black Swallowtail include parsley, dill, fennel and carrot. So a Colony vegetable garden will likely contain at least one of these plants. Thus, when a female black swallowtail butterfly visits your yard looking for a nectar plant (lantana, impatiens, petunias, etc.) it will also be looking for its host plant to lay her eggs on. When the caterpillar hatches it resembles bird poop, black on both ends and white in the middle, so it doesn't look tasty to the birds looking for a high-protein meal. In several days, assuming it has plenty of food; it will begin to turn into a beautiful black caterpillar with green stripes and yellow dots. The birds then begin to love them or rather I should say love to eat them, and you will begin to hate them since the caterpillars are quickly devouring your plants. So what is the solution to your problem????? Call the Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar REMOVAL PERSON; I will come to your home and for NO CHARGE remove the "critters" and take them to my home to continue to feed and care for them until they all hopefully go into chrysalis in preparation to becoming a beautiful butterfly; when the butterfly emerges it will be released in my back yard and hopefully the new generation of butterflies will again find your garden and start the process again.

B J Taylor, 486-3056



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And what do you get when you mix 400 pounds of trash, a shopping cart and a ton of mud? "Clean the Bay Day" of course! Early this month, the colony participated in Clean the Bay Day and due to the organizational efforts of Tom McLaughlin and John & Rachael Davis over 400 pounds of trash was taken from the waterway around the Colony. Our colony residents were joined by 9 Boy Scouts recruited by Hunter Davis and did an outstanding job of getting in the mud to clean things up. Thank you!

And as I mentioned, now the state of the Colony. We have no debt! Your treasurer, BJ Taylor, believes in his own version of Pay-Go. Go away, we aren't buying /paying for anything. We are about 35 residents (\$1,400) short of our average yearly membership numbers. One trend that can hurt the civic league is vacant houses and rental units. Regarding rentals, the paying of dues is typically not addressed during the application / rental process. So if landlords, tenants and Realtors keep this in mind, I am sure a common ground can be reached by all on who should pay the dues!

As always, I look forward to seeing each of you at our meetings and events.

Todd Lovelace

Welcome to the Neighborhood! by Susie Thesier

Art Webb moved into 609 Chesopeian Trail in late December. He owns an advertising agency and has a son, age 10 and daughter, age 8 who attend Kingston Elementary. He has done an incredible job of remodeling! Art can be reached at 961-6190 or awebb@boomyourbrand.com. ***Welcome to the Colony!***