



Middle Plantation Newsletter

Middle Plantation Civic League

Website: <http://www.middleplantation.org>

May 2009

WOW! I can't believe it...this is my last Newsletter as I am stepping down after my 2 year term expires on July 1. Whether you agreed or disagreed with my policies and decisions, I think we can all be proud of the tremendous amount of activity that has been done over the last two years because of the workings of your Civic League. For example, bike path stop signs have been installed on the bike path. The Adopt-A-Path Program has come to fruition (see note in Newsletter). The Website has been incredibly updated. The neighborhood has gone to a paperless email and information system. Daffodil bulbs have been planted along Little Neck Road through funds donated by the cell tower money. Bishops Gate Park has been upgraded. Civic League meeting attendance reached an all-time high (20!). Speakers are now joining us for these meetings. A Shred-It Day is now a reality. A lot of new stuff, isn't it? I had a lot of help and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Officers, the Board Members and the Committee Chairs and Assistants for their dedication to their community. My hat is off to you-THANK YOU. All of this being said, we have to realize the neighborhood doesn't run itself. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, less than 2% of the neighborhood is participating in the Civic League. As a matter of fact, some of these volunteers are doing more than one job! Currently, as of today, we do not have a President or a Vice President(s) to succeed me. **That is unbelievable.** I have approached several people and we have some irons in the fire but should have 5 volunteers interested in this leadership position at all times. I know a lot of you are busy-so am I. You can manage your time and produce an hour or two a month, though. Trust me. I did. We live in a great community with strong influence with the City of Virginia Beach. Little Neck Road and its subdivisions are some of the nicest in this city. We need to protect what we have and make sure it stays that way. The only way to do this is to make sure we have the manpower to accomplish our goals according to our Mission Statement and the responsible usage of the 2009 Budget. Please consider volunteering, even if it is in a small capacity (see available positions at the end of the Newsletter).

Marty Nopper, President

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Dues Drive 2009 is Concluded

The Dues Drive 2009 concluded last week (April 17). We had **356 residents** enroll in the Civic League and are about to send the information off to the printers so that we can have our Directories to you by early May. **Thank you to all that joined the Civic League!!!** I have mentioned many times what his money is used for and hope that you agree it is well spent (and saved). For those of you that have not paid, please consider doing so. You can mail/drop off checks to Nikki Kelsick or Lewie Gayton. *The dues are still \$40 a year.* We are hoping to get a total of at least 400 residents to participate in order to make our Budget. Proxies are also required to assign voting privileges on Middle Plantation issues affecting your neighborhood. Please make sure you return that form as well. Thanks!

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Around the Block...

TOP 3 ISSUES

1. Vandalism/Crime

Recently, a ration of vandalism has again hit our neighborhood. Even more worrisome is the fact that it has escalated. A car was stolen from St Andrews Way a few weeks ago and reported to the police.

Fortunately, I have a dozen or so female residents who keep me tuned in to the happenings around the Little Neck area. Several recent incidents have made me just shake my head as I have been preaching the same message since I took office almost 2 years ago.

“PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!” I realize we shouldn’t have to worry about vandalism in our neighborhood but we do. Every neighborhood in America has this problem. The police seem to think a local kid may be responsible for this. Most incidents occurred between the hours of 12-4 a.m. I would ask that you:

- 1. Lock your car doors and put all windows/convertible tops up.**
- 2. Take all valuables (phones, cameras, Ipods) out of you car every night.**
- 3. Install motion detector lights next to the house/garage to discourage thieves.**
- 4. Report suspicious behavior in the neighborhood.**
- 5. Do not touch anything and call the police to come out, take a report and dust for fingerprints.**

In addition, we all need to be aware of what is going on in the Little Neck corridor. We live in an affluent area and that makes it a target for those seeking a quick buck. If you are concerned for your safety, you may want to have your spouse meet you when you get home, call ahead to let them know you are almost home or go to a

neighbors house. **BE AWARE** of your surroundings at all times. **Do not hesitate to call 911 if you ever feel threatened.** Thanks for all the emails-keep them coming.

2. Burned Out Street Lights

I am putting this info in again. I have received some phone calls and emails alerting me that the street lights in their part of the neighborhood are out or not working properly. **I would ask the Block Captains (and residents, too) to take note of the pole number and call Dominion Virginia Power at 888-667-3000 and report the outage. Let’s get all lights working!!!**

3. Yard/ Street Clutter

Spring is here and yard work is a necessary evil. I have had some complaints regarding the amount and type of debris being put out in front of our homes. Although this is a city matter (unless considered an infraction of our Deeds and Covenants), please be courteous to your neighbors and place debris in front of your property as close to Tuesday as possible for Wednesday pickup. Also, please clean up twigs, branches, etc that the trash men didn’t get to and place in piles/stacks in accordance with city guidelines. **Please contact Joe Wharton if you need assistance on what we can enforce.** Thanks for your understanding.

Easter Egg Hunt

Recently, Middle Plantation held an Easter Egg Hunt on St. Gregory’s Way. Beth Ripa, Social Chair, said a great time was had by all. She wanted me to let you know that she had help from Samantha Phillips, who helped Beth stuff the overwhelming amount of eggs. She also wanted me to thank the residents there who let the children use their yards: the Dundervill’s, the Burris’s and the Webb’s. It’s neighbors like you who help out in a time of need. Special thanks to Anthony Vittone for donating gifts as well. **Please consider helping Beth with the 4th of July Parade!!!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: LITTLE NECK SWIM AND RACQUET CLUB (LNSRC)

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009

TIME: 7:00 PM

Any Middle Plantation resident is welcome...this is always a great time and the Womens Club and MPCL have put a lot of effort into this..please consider attending!

MPCL WOMENS CLUB

Please remember to sign up for these various activities if you haven't done so already:

Casual Dining, TGIF/Weekend Socials, Bunko, Roving Dinner, Book Club or Bridge Club.

Annual dues are \$25.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE WOMEN'S CLUB FOR THESE EVENTS AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, CALL PEGGY DREWS AT 461-9050 FOR DETAILS.

LYNNHAVEN RIVER GARDEN CLUB

GERANIUM SALE!!!! LOCAL GROWER.

HANGING, PATIO AND ANNUALS ALSO

AVAILABLE!!!! 9-1 PM AT KINGS GRANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25

TGIF- APRIL 24, 7:30

AT THE HOME OF THE VITTONES

'END OF THE YEAR' PARTY- MAY 2, 7-10 PM AT THE LNSRC

***EVENTS INCLUDE MPCL BOARD/CHAIRPERSON ELECTIONS AND CASINO NITE! EVERYONE WELCOME!**

The New Website Is

Here!!!

Yes, it's true! We have finally put together the new, Middle Plantation website that allows web surfers a much more user friendly site that is chalk full of information. Prospective homeowners, realtors and residents of the neighborhood should visit this site to get a taste of what living in Middle Plantation is all about. You can get there by typing in **www.middleplantation.org**. Check it out. If you think of any extra information that you would like to see on the website, please contact Tom Turley (tomturley@aol.com). You may also want to thank him as he was the brains behind this becoming a reality. **Thanks Tom! If anyone has ideas for changes (additions/subtractions) please let us know!**

Adopt-A-Trail

Recently, the Middle Plantation Civic League held a meeting at Kingston for it's members. We asked for a volunteer and **Steve Ryan** of Middle Plantation Quay raised his hand without hesitation and said he would spearhead the task. Within a week, he cleaned up the shoulders of Little Neck and Harris Roads with the help of his son (this is the area to be covered by the 'Adopt-A-Trail sign that will be posted soon). He will be in charge of making sure we as a Civic League make the required 'clean-ups' but will need some help. If anyone can give an hour every 6 months, that would be very helpful. Please call Steve Ryan at 431-4413 or rsierra07@aol.com if you can help. This would make a great Boy or Girl Scout project!

'Shred-It' Comes To Middle Plantation

Shred-It, the document-shredding service company, came to our neighborhood *March 21 from 9-11 a.m.* About 30 residents of the neighborhood used the service and went extremely well. I would like to thank the residents of St Gregory's Way for letting us use their cul-de-sac and to Amy Greazel for spearheading this new initiative (thanks also Jan Zalaskas). We are looking to continue this event for the future but need your feedback. Do you want to see it opened up to the Little Neck corridor? Should we charge \$5 like this year? Please contact Amy Greazel at 233-0068 to give her your feedback and comments surrounding this event. It costs the Civic League about \$350 for the 2 hours.

Committee Reports

Architectural Review Committee

The Architectural Review Committee is responsible for maintaining the Deed Restrictions within Middle Plantation. These Restrictions are detailed in the front of the Middle Plantation Directory and are also posted on our Website. All homeowners planning to erect any additions, Outlying structure's (sheds, jungle gyms, doghouses, etc) or fences should review their plans with the Committee **before** work begins. This simple step will eliminate potential problems and avoid the need for major rework. This is a very thankless job-let's try to work within the guidelines so Joe doesn't have to remind you with a letter. If anyone would like to assist in the decision-making process, please call Joe.

Please call Joe Wharton @ 496-5599 with any questions.

Communications/Block Security/Dues Drive

The Communications Committee is responsible for the publishing and distribution of the annual Directory as well as the annual Dues Drive. This Committee is also the point of contact for the Neighborhood Watch Program and the block captains who are required to report any incidents on their blocks.

Please call Nikki Kelsick @ 631-9676 with any questions.

Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee works with our landscaper and neighbor, Stuart Clarke, to maintain the landscaping at the entrances. Please pick up debris if you see it. New winter foliage has been planted and new shrubs for the corner of Glen Eden are in place. Spring foliage will go in as soon as the weather warms up.

Please call Sharon Welch @ 306-1447 with any questions.

Social Committee

The Social Committee organizes two neighbor parties/celebrations: the 'Halloween Parade' and the 'Easter Parade'. This Committee, in conjunction with the Women's Club, also plans the 'End of the Year Party' in May. Please contact Beth Ripa if you are interested in helping with any of these functions and supplying 'fresh ideas' to increase children's attendance at these very fun events.

Please call Beth Ripa @ 631-4898 with any questions.

Welcoming Committee

In conjunction with the Women's Club, the Welcoming Committee greets new people to our neighborhood. If you are interested in helping or know of a new neighbor, please contact **Jane Harrison. @ 631-4741 with any questions.**

City of Virginia Beach Information

I have been sent a wonderful guide to all City of Virginia Beach services. It is a superb resource and I encourage everyone to order one. If anyone needs assistance with these services, please dial 385-3111 from a cell phone or 311 from a landline. They can also be reached at VBgov.com. The name of this resource is **Virginia Beach Citizen Services Guide**. Please order yours today to get all city department numbers.

Lynnhaven River Garden Club Geranium Sale

The LRGCC is having their Annual Geranium Sale on Saturday, April 25. They will be selling patio geraniums in a variety of colors, beautiful hanging baskets, knockout roses and an assortment of annuals and perennials.

Where: Kings Grant Presbyterian Church
745 Little Neck Road, VA Beach

Time: 9 a.m. -1 pm

*****Please contact Amy Greazel at 289-8677 or Jane Harrison at 631-4741 for pre-orders....**

MPCL Officers

President.....Marty Nopper @ 431-0265
Vice President.....Vacant
Secretary.....Jan Zalaskus @ 340-1455
Treasurer.....Lewie Gayton @ 463-3678

Board of Directors

Bernie Deneke.....631-1536
Susan Smith.....271-5683
Steven Lonning.....498-7389
Claudia Hudgens.....486-1977
Tom Turley.....233-8518
Amy Greazel.....233-0068

Committee Chairpersons

Architectural Review....Joe Wharton@496-5599
joe-mparc@cox.net

Communication.....Nikki Kelsick@631-9676
nkelsick@aol.com

Beautification.....Sharon Welch@306-1447
swelch18@cox.net

Social.....Beth Ripa@631-4898
beth.ripa@longandfoster.com

Welcome.....Jane Harrison@631-4741
jane@modernenv.com

Member Meetings

As a Civic League, we are required to meet a specified amount of times each year as well as publish and distribute all minutes from those meetings to the members. I try to make these meetings as informative as possible and I have even instituted a time at the end of each meeting to present any topic that the residents feel needs to be addressed. I have also invited speakers from the community, including the VB Police Department, people associated with neighborhood enrichment projects and almost had some politicians come by to let us know their positions regarding where they stand on the issues. **Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged.** Our last meeting, February 10 at Kingston Elementary at 7pm, was extremely well attended (by our standards). 22 people showed up and we saw a great discussion on the **Lynnhaven River Now Project**. This lecture was presented by Richard Serpe and was very informative regarding the success of bringing back the Lynnhaven oyster to our local waterways. He also suggested things that we could do as homeowners to curb the pollution being dumped into these waterways through the drainage systems around our neighborhood (i.e. don't over-fertilize, clean up animal feces, etc). We would like to continue to bring in local speakers who can educate us as a community on a variety of issues. All speakers should be sponsor-free (no personal gain involved/no sales pitches) and have a presentation lasting no longer than 30 minutes. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know. Thanks again to those who showed up to the last meeting. It was nice to see that turnout.

Why Should I Pay My Dues?

This is a great question. Dues are in place to be the funds needed to operate a budget for Middle Plantation. The funds generated pay for a wide range of services and representation. We are still only asking for \$40 a year, a sum which hasn't been increased in years. We have 436 homes in our subdivision and the budget this year is based on 400 homes participating. Any math majors out there will know this is **only 92% of residences** and will raise about \$16,000.00 to pay for these services. Below is an outline of The benefits you receive for this \$40.

- ^ Ability to vote on Issues Affecting Your Neighborhood
- ^ Hold Quarterly/Annual Meetings (chance to voice your opinion/feelings)
- ^ Annual Directory
- ^ Professional landscaping of Common Areas (4 entrances and corner of Harris Road)
- ^ Architectural Preservation (maintain Covenants)
- ^ Replace/maintain Entrance Signs
- ^ Provide Clubs/Activities to Families (holiday parades-3, annual party)
- ^ Represent Community in Dealings with the City of Va Beach (Harris Rd. improvements, Bike Paths, Cell Towers, Little Neck Rd. widening, etc)
- ^ Increased City Of Va Beach Police patrols
- ^ Quarterly Newsletters

All new neighbors are encouraged to join and receive these benefits immediately (if you pay after 3/31/09, you can still have a say in neighborhood matters and vote...don't put it off!). The 2009 Dues Drive has closed but it is still not too late to pay (please see Dues Drive on page 1)

I realize that not every one of our neighbors will see the benefit of these services. I can't make them pay their dues. I also don't expect these non-paying dues members to ask for any of these services (and they will, trust me), complain about their unruly neighbors or call me when they need police assistance for a break-in or a dog is barking. Consequently, my Committees and I will allow dues payers to have full access to all services (free of charge) and be able to complain and speak their mind about anything that they feel needs to change (compliments are ALWAYS accepted and encouraged) at the Quarterly Meetings or via email.

Please pay your dues if you haven't already!

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Welcome New Residents!

I would like to welcome several new residents who have joined the Middle Plantation Community in the last few months:

The Kaisers at 3320 Stapleford Chase

Please join me in welcoming our new neighbors!!!

****Block Captains*****Please contact Jane Harrison at jane@modernenv.com to pass on the addresses of new neighbors. This will ensure they receive the proper welcome and Directory and encourage them to join the MPCL.*

Attachments (6)

Block Captains

Attached, you will find the 2009 Block Captains List. Block Captains, please let me know if there are any changes that I need to know about to keep this list updated. If any resident has to report something that occurred in or around their property, please report it to the appropriate Block Captain for them to forward on to me. **If you ever feel threatened or in danger, please dial 911 immediately. Always be vigilant. A special Thank You** to all 2008 Block Captains for supporting your neighbors and being a valued resource to the Board.

Behind The Badge City of Virginia Beach Police Department Newsletter

This is a publication put out by Polie Chief A.M. Jake Jacocks and his staff. It lets residents of the City of VB know what initiatives are being undertaken by the Police Department.

Youth Roster

Attached to this newsletter, you will find the most current youth roster. There are many chores that these youths can perform and I am sure they can use the money. Please consider using this local talent for the small chores around your house. **If you receive a paper newsletter, please contact Marty Nopper at mnopper1@cox.net for this information to be sent via email.**

Fire & Life Safety Newsletters

Every month, the City of Va. Beach Fire Department puts out a safety newsletter. I will try to send it every 3 months or more if the situation deems it necessary. This month's topic is about poison prevention, the new 'Move Over' law and some Spring Cleaning items for the house....

BUDGET 2009

I have attached the budget instead of putting it on a page in the Newsletter. I am not very good with this Word program.....sorry.

Miscellaneous

Help Wanted

Electrician. *If you are a qualified/certified electrician and would like to help out the neighborhood, please contact Marty Nopper at mnopper1@cox.net or 288-1116. Responsibilities would include the front sign out Front of the neighborhood only.*

Volunteers Needed

We need help with the following events:

- 1.) **Easter Egg Hunt-** 1-2 families needed to 'donate' their yard/yards for the event. It is usually 2-3 hours and the MPCL will bring all items necessary to make this a very special event for the kids. There are age restrictions and we may have to get a head count prior to the event to properly prepare. Please contact Beth Ripa at 631-4898.
- 2.) **Adopt-A-Trail-** I need 1-2 people to help with this new initiative. It will require you participate in keeping the areas outside of Middle Plantation free from debris. You will work directly with Steve Ryan once or twice a year to keep the neighborhood looking great and to keep in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Adopt-A-Trail organization. Please contact Steve Ryan at 431- 4413.
- 3.) **End of the Year Party-** Need helpers to assist the Women's Club with planning and execution of our annual event, including setup and breakdown. If you can help, please call Peggy Drews at 961-9050.
- 5.) **Webmaster- Unfortunately,** our webmaster, Tom Turley, is moving. If you are interested in helping out with the website, please Contact Marty Nopper at 288-1116.

Need A Job?

The Census Bureau is currently hiring (age 18+) for several positions in our area. They include Census Takers, Crew Leaders, Crew Leader Assistants, Recruiting Assistants, and Census Clerks. The pay rates are between \$9.75 to \$14.50 an hour and there are full and part time positions available, up to 40 hours a week. To apply for a job, please call 1-866-861-2010 to schedule an appointment to take the employment test. You can also call Michelle Hrudowsky (US Census Bureau Recruiting assistant) at 757-536-9633 or email her at michelle-0207@hotmail.com with any questions.

STOLEN – Men's black bicycle from the Little Neck Swim & Racquet Club (Rick Jakobowski)
--Women's green Schwinn bicycle from Stapleford Chase (Sharon Welch)

*****MPCL and Marty Nopper are not responsible for any typos*****

