



Middle Plantation Newsletter

Middle Plantation Civic League

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

August 2008

Lost— Our desire to improve Middle Plantation and keep it on the right path! Fellow neighbors, we still need a Vice-President to serve the 2009-2011 term for the Middle Plantation Civic League! If anyone has seen this person attending other functions and you notice them displaying a passion to change or influence the things they care about, then please contact me immediately...seriously people, we are in crunch time right now to get someone to take over the reins of this community. My term expires on July 1, 2009 and that is less than a year away. Certainly we have some very bright people who have ideas on bettering our neighborhood and preserving the character and charm that is Middle Plantation. The job does not require more than 4 Board Meetings a year (1 is a party!), 4 Member Meetings a year and the development of 4 newsletters a year. I use templates but have to fill in the information and you guys are quick to let me know what to add. There are always things that pop up in the 3 month window it takes to put out the next addition. **REWARD:** Civic Pride, strong leadership and the ability to say whatever you want in the newsletter.

Found— 4 new Board Members, 2 Decorating Committee members and a new ARC Chairperson! WOW! All this has happened in the last couple of months and I couldn't be happier. I mentioned above that we still need a 'big toe' but the 4 new Board Members are Claudia Hudgens, Amy Greazel, Tom Turley and Steve Lonning (back for more punishment!). Also Amy Greazel and Amy McDonough have agreed to decorate our neighborhood during federal holidays to sport the red, white and blue and Joe Wharton has agreed to take over the much beloved Architectural Committee Chair. Thank you all from the rest of the neighborhood and I look forward to another year of improving our neighborhood with your help.

Marty Nopper, President

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Outgoing Officers and Board Members

Unfortunately, with all the influx of new residents joining the MPCL, we have to say goodbye to some really good people who have served this community well over the last couple of years. **Margaret Vann, Sharon Welch, Mike Barbachem** and **Rick Jakobowski** have helped guide this neighborhood Civic League and have been involved in the day to day decision-making in your community. Please thank them and let them know what a wonderful job they did. **Tim Good**, former Architectural Chair, also stepped down from his post. Tim has been influential in determining and establishing the architectural integrity in Middle Plantation for the last 2 years. We are going to miss you all.

Around the Block...

TOP 3 ISSUES

1. Yard Waste

As a Civic League, we can really only enforce what is written down in our Deeds and Restrictions. Yard waste is **not** one of those topics. This is a subject that we cannot enforce but is actually documented in the City of Va Beach Code. There are restrictions on when you can put your yard waste bags out, how much they can weigh and how many you are allowed to put by the curb. I am attaching the codes for your review. Although we cannot enforce them, you can actually be cited by the City of Va Beach for violating this policy. Please do your best to put yard waste at the curb during appropriate times.

2. Soccer Goals

This is a relatively recent hot topic. For the last 2 months, I have received half a dozen emails asking me to get owners of soccer goals in their front yards to remove them. The Civic League cannot enforce this removal as these goals are **not defined** in our Restrictions. We are also not the 'fun police' and cannot ask neighbors to restrict their children's play. I can, however, ask residents to consider removing the goals when done using them, to place them in the back yards and even to move them when they mow (really). This would be helpful to some neighbors.

3. Dog Feces

I really can't believe we are still talking about this one but I have actually gotten phone calls asking me to put it in the newsletter again. **It is the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after their pet!** Take a baggie with you when walking your pet. Please be courteous of your neighbors (especially the ones on the street corners where alot of these issues are coming from). This subject is not addressed in the Restrictions either-it is just common sense.....

Other Hot Topics

Boats/Trailers/RV's parked on property (see Deeds and Restrictions below).

Commercial Vehicles parked in driveways/streets (see Deeds and Restrictions below).

Vandalism- we have to continue to monitor our personal property. Most incidences of vandalism that have been reported to me (9 of 10) have been theft from unlocked vehicles. Please remember to lock your cars and remove anything you don't want stolen. A home theft was also reported (see most recent Crime Report-attachment).

Malicious act of violence- a fishing line was tied between 2 houses last month on Upper Hastings. It was strung about 5 feet high and could have hurt someone very badly. If you know anything about this, please let me know. We will prosecute whoever is responsible for this cowardly act.

****I would like to ask parents to be especially vigilant as to your child's whereabouts and ask questions about where they are, who they are with and what they are doing****

****Most of the theft has been reported between 10pm and 4 am****

We really do live in a great neighborhood. Let's respect each others privacy, personal property and try to work things out amongst ourselves before involving the Civic League, the City of Va Beach or the Police Department.

MP Deed and Covenant Restrictions

Middle Plantation has Deeds and Covenants which outline the do's and don'ts of what you **can** and what you **can't** store on or do to your property. Please take a few minutes to look over these guidelines to ensure your compliance. **Your neighbors and the Civic League will appreciate it. These Deeds and Covenants can be found in the front of the 2008 Directory. These rules were part of what you agreed to at the closing of your house with your lawyer.** See the action steps involved below.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: KINGSTON ELEMENTARY

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008

TIME: 7:00 PM

Any Middle Plantation resident in good standing (DUES PAYER) or new resident to the neighborhood may attend.

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 WOMENS CLUB FOR THESE EVENTS AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, CALL PEGGY DREWS AT 461-9050 FOR DETAILS.

MP WOMENS CUB KICK-OFF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2008, AT JACKIE BRADLEY'S HOUSE (952 UPPER HASTINGS WAY). PLEASE CALL PEGGY DREWS FOR MORE INFO!

THE LYNNHAVEN RIVER GARDEN CLUB IS AN INFORMAL GROUP OF NEIGHBORS WHO LOVE TO GARDEN. THE FOCUS IS ON SHARING IDEAS AND LEARNING. THEY MEET ONCE A MONTH ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 9:30 AM. CONTACT SHARON WELCH FOR MORE DETAILS. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT 306-1447.

New Violation Letter Adopted

A new Violation Letter has been adopted by the Board of MPCL. Anyone in violation of the restrictions of the Deeds and Covenants of Middle Plantation will receive this letter as a warning. You will then have 2 weeks to correct the situation. A second warning letter will then go out. If after 2 weeks the situation is still not corrected, you will receive a registered letter from the Middle Plantation Civic League attorney. **I encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the restrictions for Middle Plantation.** In addition to keeping the aesthetic beauty of our neighborhood intact, you will also be a good neighbor to those around you.

Crime Statistics

Please see the attached Virginia Beach Police Department Crime Report for June 2008. We fared very well (again) but remember to be vigilant and lock your cars and homes. Motion detectors and exterior lighting are a couple of inexpensive ways to deter theft. Please consider them. Also, please be aware of your surroundings when walking or running at night. Carry a night light, flashlight or some sort of reflective clothing/device as well.

Website Redesign Coming Soon

After much discussion at Board Meetings and in the Middle Plantation community, we have decided to change the Middle Plantation website to reflect a more modern look. This website will replace the current one (middleplantation.org) and will be easier to surf and be more resident friendly. Some of the changes will include:

- Current and former newsletters
- Officer, Committees and Board Members
- Minutes from Member Meetings
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Message Boards
- Youth Roster
- Contact Us

As you can see, this new website will be the future source (along with the MPCL Directory afforded to every dues paying member) of all information for our community at your fingertips. This new website will help keep us more current, will have a more upscale design to help attract possible new homeowners to our community and will incorporate Middle Plantation Social Club agendas. **If anyone has any experience at building websites, we can sure use your expertise!** Please forward any volunteers and ideas to Tom Turley (our Webmaster) at tomturley@aol.com. I know you will be excited to see this new feature coming soon.

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 structures (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. Also, I know summertime brings recreational watercraft to our driveways and yards. Please be prompt in removing them once cleaned. They are not allowed to be stored anywhere on your property.

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. As a reminder, there are 'doggie bags' at the corner of Little Neck and Harris that are to be used to clean up your pet's waste. This is not a drop off point for someone else to pick up! New fall foliage has been planted and new shrubs for the corner of Glen Eden will be in place soon.

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.

Waste Collection

As I mentioned before, this is a hot topic of discussion for my inbox. As you know, I have attached the City Codes outlining waste collection to this newsletter. According to the City, waste is not to be placed at the curb (regular and yard waste) prior to 5pm the day before collection (collection is Wednesday, folks). Anyone can call Code Enforcement at 385-4421 to report a violation. This is a City issue, **not** a MPCL issue. Please try to work with your neighbors before making that call...

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

BUDGET 2008

2008 MP Budget (29-July)

	FINANCIAL STATUS				
	2006	2007	2008	2008	2008
	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	BUDGET	EXPENSES	BALANCE
ANNUAL MEETING WOMENS CLUB	\$2,050.00	\$1,168.50	\$1,500.00	\$1,592.68	-\$92.68
ENTRANCE DECORATIONS	153.05	169.29	\$100.00		\$100.00
ENTRANCE SIGNS- MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	2482.5	14.64	\$350.00	199.40	\$150.60
DIRECTORY- PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION	1264.11	1500.93	\$1,600.00	1,780.00	-\$180.00
GARAGE SALE- ADVERTISING/SECURITY	221.61	232.26	\$250.00	166.91	\$83.09
LAWN CARE/LANDSCAPING/MAINTENANCE	8820.63	9498.13	\$10,000.00	3,399.00	\$6,601.00
DUES EXPENSES	44.89	315.05	\$165.00		\$165.00
MEMBER MEETINGS - SIGNS CHANGES	190.2	0.00	\$225.00		\$225.00
MISCELLANEOUS	162.63	687.18	\$250.00	62.60	\$187.40
NEWSLETTER-PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION	573.75	598.50	\$600.00	153.00	\$447.00
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	531.82	567.62	\$600.00	198.92	\$401.08
WEBSITE	350	350.00	\$350.00		\$350.00
TOTAL	\$16,845.19	\$15,102.10	\$15,990.00	\$7,552.51	\$8,437.49

384 members = \$15,360.00

376 members = \$15,040.00

(384 dues paying members in 2007)

(376 dues paying members in 2008)

Cash	BEGINNING OF YEAR 2008		\$7,996.45
Deposits			\$15,040.00
Expenses			\$7,552.51
Cash Balance			\$15,483.94

Certificate of Deposit (CD) \$6,041.42 MATURITY 7/21/2009 Interest Rate 4.25%

***We are down 8 Dues Payers from last year**

***We are \$950.00 short of our budget**

***We only need 24 members to pay their dues to get all the things we need on this budget accomplished!!!**

***Lets get it done!**

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. **Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged.** We had a good turnout in November and an even better one in February. The Member Meeting in May was the 'End of the Year' Party and was brief. There were elections at this meeting and we had a great turnout as about 60 couples enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt and fine food and beverage. As mentioned previously, 4 Board seats were replenished and we even found someone to accept the ARC Chair. Our next meeting, August 12 at Kingston Elementary at 7pm, and I have a special guest lined up. **Representatives from Lynnhaven River Now will present information on oyster gardening and ways that individuals can contribute to oyster restoration in the Lynnhaven River.** This should be very interesting and will affect those individuals that want to preserve one of the most famous delicacies in the world, the Lynnhaven River Oyster..

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 a 92% of residences** and will raise about \$16,000.00 to pay for these services. To date we have **376 homes paid (86%), 8 homes shy** of 2007 figures, **9% and just 24 homes shy** of our projected budget for 2008. Excellent job but we need more help! Below is an outline of what you receive for this \$40. **All new neighbors are encouraged to join and receive these benefits immediately (if you wait until Q1 '09, you will not have a say in neighborhood matters until then...don't put it off!)**

- ^ 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

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, complain about their unruly neighbors or call me when they need police assistance 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 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 **Wheaton's** @ 909 Downshire Chase

The **Culps** @ 917 Upper Hastings

The **Danso's** @ 3324 Upper Palace Green

The **Wright's** @ 3341 Middle Plantation Quay

The **Weavers** @ 925 Kings Cross

The **Branum's** @ 912 Salisbury Green

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.**

BLOCK CAPTAIN LIST

Attached, you will find the 2008 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.

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.**

Additions to 2008 MP Directories

***Please add Paul Holota, 3340 Middle Plantation Quay, 757-486-8161, to your 2008 MP Directories. He was inadvertently left out. Sorry, Paul.**

Help Wanted

Electrician. If you are an qualified/certified electrician and would like to help out the neighborhood, please contact Marty Nopper at mnopper1@cox.net or 288-1116.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: a sentimental, flat, gold bracelet at Middle Plantation Garage Sale. If found, please call 463-3678. **REWARD!**

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*******

