



# Middle Plantation Newsletter

Middle Plantation Civic League

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

February 2008

## *From the President*

Wow! Can't believe the New Year is finally here. I had asked for some resident feedback in the last newsletter and heard from many of you who want the newsletters sent via email from now on. You didn't get your wish this time around but the Middle Plantation Civic League has decided to institute this new format for the May '08 newsletter. We have collected emails from several sources (old Directories, Women's Club, Garden Club and the 'old fashioned' word of mouth) and have a pretty complete list for the neighborhood. Someone from the Civic League may be calling those of you whose email addresses we don't have. Please provide them with the appropriate addresses if you desire. By having your email address, the Civic League will be able to send you the newsletter electronically, as well as keep you informed/reminded of upcoming events (neighborhood yard sale, Easter Parade), situations in the neighborhood (solicitors, suspicious activity), and updates for clubs. We do not intend to bombard you with emails but to make communication more efficient and financially responsible to all dues payers. Please understand that we will not sell or distribute the addresses obtained and will be kept secure with only limited access by a few Civic League members (President, Vice President and Database Administrator). Your email address will also be 'blinded' to others on the email list. Your privacy will be respected. I appreciate any and all comments that pertain to this new concept.

*Marty Nopper*

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## Dues Drive 2008 Underway

The **2008 Dues Drive** has kicked off in a big way. Letters asking for the dues (still at only \$40 a year) went out in late December to all Middle Plantation residents (approximately 436 homes). In the first month, we have gotten dues back from 225 households (52%!) and they keep coming in every day. Thanks for participation from all who have sent their dues in. To the others, there will be a strict cutoff date of March 31, 2008. ANY dues not paid by this date will keep your families' information out of the MPCL Directory and you will not enjoy the privileges of membership. A Proxy also accompanied this letter and must be mailed back to Margaret Vann at the address indicated. Last year we had 88% member participation. I challenge all residents to become part of the MPCL. **Please send in dues now** so that we can add your family to the MPCL Directory and don't have to send any more reminder letters than we have to. Special thanks to Margaret Vann, Sharon Welch, Bill Balzer and Tom Turley for getting this Drive together.

### Anyone Out There???

Folks, I know I am sounding like the proverbial broken record but **your Civic League needs some more volunteers**. Current openings for volunteers include a Vice President, a Communications Chairperson and a Decorating Committee Chair. I have been serving as President since June 2007 and we still do not have a Vice President. The Vice President serves a two year term and will succeed the President at the end of that term. Responsibilities are to attend quarterly meetings, assist with the Newsletter and to handle duties if the President is away. The Communications Chair is responsible for the Dues Drive every year and to assist in gathering current information to the Database Manager. The Decorating Chairperson is responsible for the hanging, storage and maintenance of the flags and banners being hung during federal holidays. Please contact me at [mnopper1@cox.net](mailto:mnopper1@cox.net) for further details or if you would like to become involved in your community.

### Member Meetings

In my last newsletter, I mentioned that MPO Leta Krieger and a Sergeant from the Virginia Beach Police Department would be speaking at our meeting in February. Unfortunately, this will not be the case as she has had a change in her plans. We will look for her participation at the next meeting, possibly, or deliver another professional to share their knowledge and experience.

I am still a little amazed at the lack of resident turnout to our meetings and community functions. As a Civic League, we are required to meet a specified amount of times each year as well as publish and distribute all current goings on in 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 need to be addressed. **Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged**. We had our best turnout last November with 10 resident's making the short trek to Kingston Elementary. Let's see if we can't double that number for the meeting on February 12 @ 7p.m. See you there!

## *Around the Block...*

### **Little Neck Road Safety Markings**

Recently, street markings along Little Neck Road have been repainted. This, coupled with the new stop signs located on the bike paths, should help keep our streets safer for both motorists and bikers/walkers. We can look for more upgrades to our neighborhood surroundings in the near future with the help of the Little Neck Alliance. **I would still encourage everyone to be safe, use common sense, slow down and allow time to look for bikers and walkers.**

*Speaking of safety*, several residents have mentioned that evening walkers are hard to see. I encourage all walkers to wear colorful/reflective clothing for their safety as it is sometimes difficult to see them at night.

### **Little Neck Alliance Gift**

Last month, the Little Neck Alliance presented the recently purchased AC Current Tester to the local Fire Department (Ladder 20). The MPCL donated \$50 to help purchase this piece of equipment that the city was not able to provide. They were very thankful for the donation. This is part of the Annual Gift Program for our local Fire Department.

### **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 yourselves 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.

## 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](http://middleplantation.org)) and will have be easier and 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 additional ideas, please forward them to Tom Turley (our Webmaster) at [tomturley@aol.com](mailto:tomturley@aol.com). I know you will be excited to see this new feature coming in Spring 2008.

### Safety Tip of the Quarter

Colder temperatures outside make most of us stay in our homes for warmth during the winter months. Here are a few Safety Tips from our friends at the **City of Virginia Beach Fire Department Life Safety Office (757-385-2874)**:

- ✓ **Electric Space Heaters**
  - Only purchase heaters that are UL (Underwriters Laboratory) or FM (Factory Mutual) approved.
  - Make sure it has a thermostat control and a tip-over switch in case the unit tips over.
  - Keep all combustibles at least 3 feet away.
  - Never leave the heater on when away or while sleeping. Unplug when not in use.
- ✓ **Fire Places**
  - Burn only seasoned wood. Paper can float up and ignite your roof (or neighbors!).
  - Have your fireplace cleaned prior to using each year. Creosote (a chemical that forms when wood is burned) can build up and cause a chimney fire.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: KINGSTON SCHOOL CAFETERIA

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008

TIME: 7:00 PM

### 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.

*Special thanks* to the Harrisons, the Holloway's and the Parr's for hosting recent TGIF's and the Holiday Gift Exchange in their homes...

**WOMEN'S CLUB SPRING EVENT** IS IN THE PLANNING STAGES. INVITATIONS TO MEMBERS WILL FOLLOW SOON.

**YEAR-END PARTY CO-HOSTED WITH MPCL** AT LNSRC. LOOK FOR DETAILS SOON (MAY 17, 2008 IS TARGET DATE)

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CLUB FOR THESE EVENTS AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, CALL AMY BROTMAN AT 340-3848 FOR DETAILS.

### MPCL EASTER EGG HUNT

DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

TIME: 3PM-?

PLACE: TBD

CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER. ANYONE INTERESTED IN HOSTING, HELPING OR PREPARING, PLEASE CALL BETH RIPA @ 739-5702 OR [BETH.RIPA@LONGANDFOSTER.COM](mailto:BETH.RIPA@LONGANDFOSTER.COM)

### LYNNHAVEN RIVER GARDEN CLUB

(FORMERLY MIDDLE PLANTATION GARDEN CLUB)

#### **GERANIUM AND AZALEA SALE**

PLACE: KINGS GRANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

TIME: 9AM-1PM

CONTACT BETSY DURRENBERGER @ 486-8850 OR MARY SCHULTE @ 498-0457



## 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 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. Another issue needing immediate attention is the presence of boats, personal watercraft and unregistered cars (tarp covered) in the neighborhood. All are prohibited in Middle Plantation. If you need to clean a boat, do so promptly and remove the boat as soon as possible. All cars must have current registrations as well.

***Please call Tim Good @ 306-7029 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 Margaret Vann @ 498-9738 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! Please clean up after your own animals.

***Please call Sharon Welch @ 306-1447 if you have 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.

***Please call Beth Ripa @ 631-4898 if you have 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.***

## Special Insert in Your Newsletter...

You will find a special leaflet in your newsletter this month. This leaflet is the "Community For A Lifetime" Public Works Department Directory for the City of Virginia Beach. The list contains phone numbers and email addresses for most services provided by the City of VB and allows you to quickly and easily get in touch with the right division for your needs. Please keep this list handy as many of you have called asking for numbers for city services. I hope you find it as useful as I have.

### **Youth Employment Roster**

There have been several additions to the Youth Employment Roster. If you would like an updated roster or wish to add or delete names from the roster, please contact Marty Nopper at [mnopper1@cox.net](mailto:mnopper1@cox.net).

### **MPCL Officers**

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

### **Board of Directors**

Mike Barbachem..... 340-7532  
Bernie Deneke.....631-1536  
Rick Jakobowski.....463-7815  
Susan Smith.....271-5683  
Margaret Vann.....498-9738  
Sharon Welch.....306-1447

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Architectural Review....Tim Good@435-8024  
[tkgood@cox.net](mailto:tkgood@cox.net)  
Communication.....Margaret Vann @498-9738  
[margaret.vann@navy.mil](mailto:margaret.vann@navy.mil)  
Beautification.....Sharon Welch@306-1447  
[swelch18@cox.net](mailto:swelch18@cox.net)  
Social.....Beth Ripa@631-4898  
[beth.ripa@longandfoster.com](mailto:beth.ripa@longandfoster.com)  
Welcome.....Jane Harrison@631-4741  
[jane@modernenv.com](mailto:jane@modernenv.com)

