



Middle Plantation Newsletter

Middle Plantation Civic League

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

May 2008

From the President

civic –adj.-Of or relating or belonging to a city. **civic duty**-noun-The responsibilities of a citizen.

Can anyone guess what I am talking about? These words are the glue that holds any city (or in our case, community) together. Without this form of control in place, things can start to deviate very quickly from guidelines built to keep the order. Well, I have to say that I am a little saddened by the response to my invitation to join the Middle Plantation Civic League (MPCL) in some sort of role. No one has stepped forward to inquire about the Vice-President position or the 3 seats available on the Board of Directors. Would you like an opportunity to lead the neighborhood and participate in what affects the value of your home and the quality of your lifestyle? I hope you like what the Board has accomplished in the last year-we have worked very hard. The fact is that there will be no one to run this organization next July, 2009. This is an excellent opportunity to give us your input to make this a better place. I assumed this role because I wanted to make a difference in the nice neighborhood my family lived in and wanted to have a say in how my money is spent and participate in offering my input in what I felt were some adequate ‘neighborhood guidelines’ for living in this community. Am I the only home out of 436 homes that feels this way? I challenge everyone to participate in some manner. There is time. You just have to find it. Please consider helping out your Civic League because we need your input. Please call me if you would like to discuss the available positions in MPCL.

Marty Nopper

Dues Drive 2008 is Complete

Well, I have to say this has been a pretty good Dues Drive 2008. Our recent Drive started in December 2007 and finished March 31, 2008. All residents paying Dues will have their family information in the 2008 Directory and will enjoy all the benefits of full membership, including being a voting member at all Civic League Meetings. We signed up 373 homes (85%) and still continue to receive payments. If you have a neighbor who is not receiving MPCL newsletters or information, please encourage them to join the Civic League. Our Dues pay for a variety of items which I have included in this Newsletter. Dues are still **only \$40 a year**. Currently, Margaret Vann is collecting Dues for 2008. She can be reached at 498-9738 or by dropping a check off at 913 Downshire Chase.

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Around the Block...

2008 MPCL Directories

“The new phone books are here! The new phone books are here!” This quote is taken from one of my favorite movies, “The Jerk”. Your MPCL 2008 Directories are heading to the printers and should be in your mailbox by next week. All dues paying members will receive one. Please call Margaret Vann @ 498-9738 if you do not receive one by early June.

MP Deed and Covenant Restrictions

It’s spring and the weather is starting to stay warm. 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 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.** See the action steps involved below.

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

Although our neighborhood has had no crimes reported to the VBPD through March ’08, we must be extra vigilant and **remember to lock all cars and homes** for your own safety. Every incident reported to me has been an unlocked car or home. **THINK SAFETY!**

Animal Waste

It has come to my attention (thank you 12 emails) that there have been many instances of animal waste being deposited on residents’ yards and not being cleaned up. **It is the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after their pet.** Please comply with this simple courtesy and bring a plastic bag with you when walking your pet.

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 chore around your house. **If you receive a paper newsletter, please contact Marty Nopper at mnopper1@cox.net for this information.**

Website Redesign Coming Fall 2008!

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 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 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 in Fall 2008.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: LITTLE NECK SWIM AND RACQUET CLUB

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

TIME: 7:00 PM

****THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE SHORTLY AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THIS PARTY. PLEASE PLAN ON BEING PROMPT!!!**

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.

THE MP WOMENS CLUB SPRING EVENT IS THE YEAR END PARTY MENTIONED ABOVE. THIS EVENT WILL ALSO SERVE AS THE YEARLY MIDDLE PLANTATION MEMBER MEETING AND IS OPEN TO *ALL DUES PAYING MEMBERS*. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING AS I AM SURE THIS WILL BE AN EXTREMELY ENJOYABLE EVENT. THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL PLANNED THIS YEAR!

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.

End of The Year Party

The Middle Plantation Women's Club has really outdone themselves this year. **In addition to this being the MPCL Quarterly Meeting, the MPWC is planning a Scavenger Hunt.** This should be extremely challenging and fun! If you are interested in donating hats, ribbons and/or bandanas, please contact Amy Brotman (abrot@aol.com) or Jennifer Nopper (jmjmops1@cox.net). Soft drinks, adult beverages and catering by Gourmet Gang will be provided and we will be entertained for a few hours by Big Top DJ ...

A lot of work has been put into this evening. Please consider attending this fun evening which is **free of charge to all Dues paying members** of the community. PLEASE BE PROMPT-we are starting at 7 p.m.

There is also a need for set up and clean up personnel if anyone can help out. Please contact Amy Brotman at abrot@aol.com for more information.

****Special Thanks****

Recently, the soon to be vacant position of Communications Chairperson has been filled. **Nikki Kelsick** has agreed to take on this responsibility. Please welcome and thank her for stepping up and taking an active role in her community. We would like to especially thank Margaret Vann for her years of continued guidance and great job she did as the Communications Chairperson.

****ARC Chair Needed****

We are currently in need of an Architectural Committee Chairperson. Our current Chair, **Tim Good**, is not seeking to be reinstated. Thanks for a couple of great years, Tim. Anyone who wants to be in charge of this rewarding position, please call Tim Good so he can give you a description of what this position entails.

As usual, he reminds us that if you have any issues with any neighbors, please try to resolve them first before contacting the ARC Review Committee.

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! New summer foliage will be planted 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.

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.**

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 so that all city service numbers will be at the touch of a button.

Bike Paths

Summer is the season for recreational activities. As you know, we all need to be aware of others. Even though cars have the right of way at the crosswalks and bikers are directed to STOP there, please be aware and look before proceeding. I am also asking bikers, runners and walkers to obey the Bike Path rules and stop at these potentially dangerous intersections.

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

Communication.....Margaret Vann @498-9738
margaret.vann @navy.mil

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

5/7/2008(2008 MPCL budget 7 MAY 2008)

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		\$1,500.00
ENTRANCE DECORATIONS	153.05	169.29	\$100.00		\$100.00
ENTRANCE SIGNS- MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	2482.5	14.64	\$350.00	185.81	\$164.19
DIRECTORY- PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION	1264.11	1500.93	\$1,600.00		\$1,600.00
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	1,590.00	\$8,410.00
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	\$2,357.24	\$13,632.76

\$15,360.00= 88% membership- 384 members

\$15,840.00= 91% membership- 396 members

CASH	BEGINNING OF YEAR 2008	\$7,996.45 (384 dues paying members in 2007)
DEPOSITS		\$14,920.00 (373 dues paying members in 2008)
EXPENSES		\$2,357.24
CASH BALANCE		\$20,559.21

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$5,920.40 MATURITY 7/3/08

373 members x \$40=\$14,920.00. We are just 27 residents shy of reaching our budget as of 5-5-08.....

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Member Meetings

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 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 need to be addressed. **Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged.** We had a good turnout in November and an even better one in February. The next Member Meeting is in May at the 'End of the Year' Party and will be brief. **THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS AT THIS MEETING.** As mentioned previously, 3 Board seats are available and I need to have someone step forward to discuss the available Vice President position and the ARC Chairperson spots with me in the near future. **We want to thank Mike Barbachem, Rick Jakobowski and Sharon Welch for their excellent contributions and guidance to our neighborhood. Thank you all.**

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. These 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. 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 **373 homes paid (93%)**, 8 homes shy of 2007 figures, **7% and just 27 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.

- ^ 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)
- ^ Hold Quarterly/Annual Meetings (chance to voice your opinion/feelings)
- ^ Ability to vote on Issues Affecting Your Neighborhood
- ^ 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. 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 **Leon's** @ 1060 Downshire Chase

The **Bussey's** @ 3205 High Borough

The **Wharton's** @ 3437 Middle Plantation Quay

The **Weavers** @ 925 Kings Cross

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.***

LOST & FOUND

Lost sentimental, flat, gold bracelet at Middle Plantation Garage Sale if found please call 463-3678. REWARD