



The Homesteader

June 2019

A neighbor is more than just somebody who lives next door.

Editor: Pam Clements

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

GOLD STAR CREW



Thank you Ginger Boyer, Karen Nuskiewicz and all the persistent dues collectors who worked so hard to maintain our 89% civic league membership. Hats off to ALL of you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next newsletter publishes in November, which is AFTER the yard sale and block party. So, you won't have another newsletter reminder. However, the information is available 24/7 on the website.

- ⇒ Yard Sale: September 7th, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., rain date September 14th
- ⇒ Block Party: October 12th, 3–6 p.m., rain date October 19th
- ⇒ Holiday Front Entrance Decorating: December 7th, 1 p.m.
- ⇒ Tree Lighting and Holiday Party at the Harriman's: December 9th, 7 p.m.



SPRING SPRUCE-UP CREW

What would we do without these dedicated volunteers to tidy up our front entrance? Bruce Baker, Karen Nuskiewicz, Ray Nuskiewicz, Mike Winstead, Gary Medlin (photographer, Darren Drake, not pictured)

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to new neighbors Andrew & Stephanie Lambert of W. Goodview Dr., Terry & Tamara Walker of W. Goodview Dr., Ruth Pritchett of Homeward Dr., and Doug & Rachael Lynch of Homeward Dr.

Farewell to Connie Skidmore of Old Homestead Lane who passed away recently.

Got new neighbors? Let us know so that the Welcoming Committee may deliver a basket with unique and useful welcome gifts.

Call Ginger Boyer with details 424-8070.



Member

Civic League Representatives:

- Chris Medlin, President 361-5826
- Karen Nuskiewicz, Vice President . 424-5657
- Donna Zerby, Treasurer..... 747-9688
- Lauren Arlaud, Secretary..... 675-5659
- Carrie Smaha, Webmaster..... 773-9038
- Pam Clements, Newsletter Editor .. 420-2073



Stay Informed! Join the Homestead conversation at Nextdoor.com

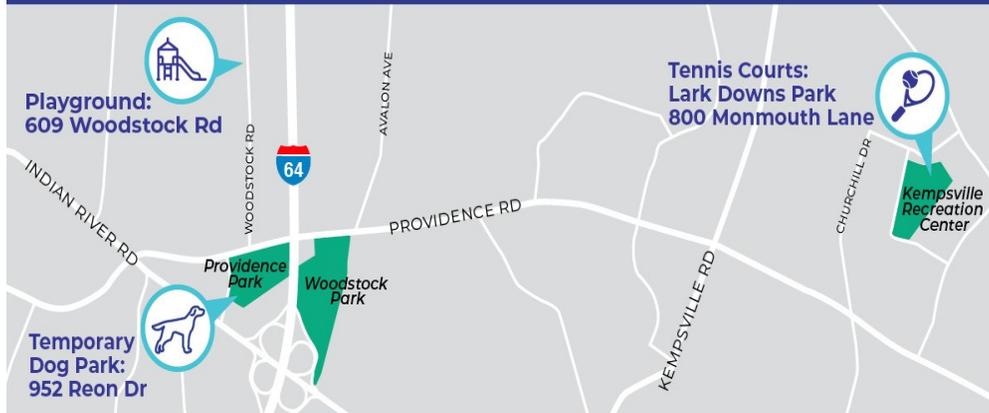
<http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>

WOODSTOCK PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

HRSD, your regional wastewater treatment utility, is undertaking a project to construct a partially buried storage tank in Woodstock Park. This effort will reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows during heavy rainfalls by allowing HRSD to hold excess wastewater and rain/groundwater in the system until elevated conditions in the sewer system subside. HRSD is also partnering with the City of Virginia Beach to construct a new skate park on the surface of the tank and to renovate Woodstock Park. At the completion of the project, HRSD will own a new, valuable asset to continue protecting the public health and waters of Hampton Roads and the residents of Virginia Beach will enjoy a renewed and improved recreational amenity.

Woodstock Park closes June 3, 2019.

During the park closure, please visit these nearby facilities.



Want to know more about the Woodstock Park Improvement project? You have the option to subscribe to receive email notifications for HRSD news and project updates on our website. If you wish to receive emailed updates, sign up via the link below. You can sign-up to receive updates about specific projects (like Woodstock Park), or you can choose to receive updates for projects in a specific city as well.

<https://www.hrsd.com/subscriptions>

Temporary park amenities that are available during construction are

- Dog Park: Providence Park, 952 Reon Drive
- Tennis Courts: Lark Downs Park at Kempsville Recreation Center, 800 Monmouth Lane
- Playground: Woodstock Cove Park, 609 Woodstock Road

WARNING: High Pressure can damage your home!

Call DAN HOUSTON*
POWER WASHING

*your neighbor in Homestead

Using **low pressure** and **heat** to clean all surfaces:
Brick, Concrete, Wood, and Vinyl

Twenty years of experience = **PROFESSIONAL RESULTS**

757-409-1087

Call for a Free Quote (Please leave a message)

**GOT QUESTIONS?
GET ANSWERS!**

Forgot the date for an upcoming neighborhood event? Hunting for that information to report a street light out? Wishing you could recall something you read in a newsletter? Visit your web site for answers.

<http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>



Congratulations 2019 Graduates



<http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>

SUMMER FIREPREVENTION TIPS

From Art Kohn, Public Information Office, Virginia Beach Fire Department

Many of you are familiar with the grilling safety tips I usually offer this time of year but today I want to talk to everyone about some fire hazards that are seemingly uncommon. Uncommon perhaps but very real.

I am referring to spontaneous combustion. Not human spontaneous combustion (that topic would be best for another chat room, lol) but spontaneous combustion of oily rags. Let's focus this discussion on rags that have been soaked in linseed oil. Linseed is typically used to clean wooden objects, like garden tool handles. This is an effective cleaner but rags that have been soaked in linseed oil can fuel spontaneous combustion and if stored in or near a garage or shed, the results can be catastrophic. This is true even if the rags are stored in a metal container. The best way to prevent a fire after using linseed oil on a rag, is to dry the rag(s) in a well-ventilated area, hanging used rags on a clothesline is a great way to prevent combustion. There are a number of decomposing materials that can fuel spontaneous combustion including hay, mulch, etc. Heat produced from the decomposition process can't escape, and that in turn can trigger a fire. The best practice to avoid combustion of decomposing material is to avoid large piles of material, and to monitor the piles for hot spots.



Now let's talk about batteries. Not car batteries but 9-volt batteries. Did you know that carrying a 9-volt battery in your pocket or discarding one in the trash can start a fire? If the leads on the battery are exposed and come into contact with something metallic, like change in your pocket, the battery may heat up and start a fire.

Okay, one last thing to discuss for our summer-time fire prevention tips. Now that the weather is warm (even hot), neighbors who smoke cigarettes, cigars, etc. find it easier to step outside and smoke. Or perhaps they are riding in the car with the windows down and smoking. PLEASE be careful about discarding smoking materials! With the dryness that is also a part of the summer season and thermal currents that generate strong winds, a carelessly discarded cigarette can quickly start a yard or brush fire. Make sure smoking materials are fully extinguished and discarded in a non-combustible container.

Hope these tips are helpful and that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer

OLD PROVIDENCE ROAD PLANNED PEDISTRIAN AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Years ago, the civic league was instrumental in getting a sidewalk installed on the east side of Whitehurst Landing Road, across from Homestead. Once again, the civic league has been active with the City, working to get the following projects completed.

A new section of sidewalk will be installed on the North side of Old Providence Road, between Old Homestead Lane and Beryl Ave. The scope of the project includes construction of 900 feet of sidewalk, installation of curb and gutter, and improvements to the drainage ditch. The project is in the top five on the priority list to be assigned a Project Manager, which *could* happen as early as July.



Also, that section of the Old Providence Road roadway is being evaluated for milling and paving. The draft paving plan for the next fiscal year is currently being routed for review.

VIRGINIA BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES

33-13. Duty of property owners and occupants to keep abutting streets and sidewalks free of litter

All owners or occupants of real property shall maintain the sidewalks and curbs and the right-of-way up to the edge of the pavement of any public street abutting such property and one-half of abutting alleys in a clean and litter-free condition

What does this mean to Homesteaders? It means it's your job to keep the curb and gutter area in front of your property clean and free of debris. It means trim the grass at the curb edge of your lawn. It means sweeping up the gutter to keep it free of debris. It means waiting until Thursday evening or Friday morning to place trash cans, yard-waste bags and bulk pick-up items at the curb.

Not only will your property look better, but a trimmed curb and debris-free gutter will allow rain water to flow freely to the storm drains and not back up causing street flooding.

FYI ABOUT BURIED OIL TANKS

By Lorrie & Pat Riddle

A couple of neighbors have recently sold their homes and informed us that there were issues with their oil tanks. It doesn't matter if you are currently using oil, the tank's location and condition are now addressed during home inspections and sales these days.

We like to be proactive so we called Bay Environmental and they gave us a free oil tank analysis. The old oil tank hasn't been used for 20 years, but was leaking oil. Currently the Virginia DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) has funds available to remediate tanks that are leaking and covers most of the costs. Bay Environmental handled everything with the State of Virginia and remediation.

Virginia Beach requires that tanks within 3 feet of a structure are filled with concrete, not sand. Remediation can be a THREE MONTH process if your tank is leaking and you are going through the State. Bay Environmental said they have seen home sales fall through because of this.

Tests came back and showed the soil around our tank was highly contaminated, so we were moved up high on the priority list. Bay Environmental came out and dug up and removed the oil tank completely. Our engineer said they like to remove them instead of filling them and do so at no extra charge if they are in an area where it can be done. If the tank cannot be removed, the State will only pay for the cost of sand. The homeowner has to pay the cost difference between sand and concrete.



Our out of pocket costs were a \$500 deductible required by the State and a \$250 administrative fee to Bay Environmental. Bay Environmental handled all communication with the State, obtained permits from the city, soil testing and will provide our Certificate of Remediation. They pumped the oil out of the tank, removed the tank from our property, filled the hole and put top soil, seed and hay down. We are very pleased with their services.

We are just letting you know in case you want to be proactive and get it taken care of or you are thinking of selling. We have a Certificate of Remediation which will be important if we decide to sell. Right now funds exist with the Virginia DEQ for the clean ups of leaking buried oil tanks. These funds can be used up and/or cancelled at anytime and without notice.



What is Wrong with our City Council and City Planning Commission in Virginia Beach?

By O. M. Sawyer

Somehow, city council members and city planners allowed their common sense get blinded by the almighty dollar. How in the world can they allow short term rentals in long established communities that are well maintained and far removed from the boardwalk and beachfront areas of our city?

How would the august members of our city council like it if they had a new neighbor moving in next to them every few days? I have read all the good rules they have supposedly put in place to ensure tranquility and harmony. They don't work. Lights are left on, dog waste is not cleaned up, trash cans are not put out on time, and cars are parked all over the place.

Many of the owners of these short term rentals don't live in Virginia Beach, or for that matter, in Virginia. They are using residential property to provide competition for the hotels and motels in our city.

A few months ago, a member of the Virginia Beach Police Department gave a very interesting and informative presentation to our Civic League on community safety and awareness. Turning our neighborhood into a short-term rental property location is not the answer we desire.

How will infractions be reported? What city office is in charge of enforcement? Is there a Hot Line we can call to report noncompliance with the rules and regulations?

If Virginia Beach can't support home owners in their effort to protect and improve their property, perhaps it's time to consider relocating to a neighboring city.

<http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>