



The Homesteader

November 2019

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

Editor: Pam Clements

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



COMING THIS SPRING...THE NEW 2020 CIVIC LEAGUE DIRECTORY!

With all the landline changes and cell phone owners, the directory is undergoing major changes. Watch for new data entry requests on your civic league dues collection sheet in February. A special thank you goes out to Anne Harriman, Lorrie Riddle, Karen Nuskiewicz and Carrie Smaha for their help with this project.

	HOLIDAY EVENTS
2019 Bluebird Ornament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, December 7th, TBA ⇒ Front Entrance Decorating Watch Nextdoor for updates and times • Monday, December 9th, 7 p.m. ⇒ Ron Harriman's 30th Annual Holiday Party with Santa & Front Entrance Caroling • Calling all bakers! Brownies and chocolate chips appeared to be the favorites last year but the crowd was LARGE. Do remember to add to Ron's hot chocolate and free ornaments by contributing some bite-sized sweet treats. Thank you Homesteaders for pitching in!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Chris Medlin

Thank you to all the Homesteaders who participated in the Yard Sale, Bake Sale and Block Party. September and October were very busy months, indeed. Residents will be happy to learn we had an increase in the number of volunteers contributing to some of these events. Our bakers were faithful, the twenty plus households participating in the Yard Sale were pleased, and the Block Party proved to be a time full of fun for all. Check out the pictures for these events on homesteadinvirginiabeach.org. We appreciate the efforts of our resident photographer, Karen Nuskiewicz, for the comprehensive overview of these gatherings.



Reporting An Outdoor Lighting Concern
Street lights out near your home?

Dominion Energy will need your information on an e-form. Go to:
dominionenergy.com/outages/streetlight-outages/outdoor-lighting-email-form.



Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Homestead Civic League Meeting

Make a Resolution to Attend.

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

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER

There are a number of caregivers in Homestead providing help to family members. The job often comes without warning or training and leaves little time for self care. That puts the caregivers at risk for a host of physical, mental and emotional issues. Stress is frequently one of the biggest problems. There may also be struggles with declining health because there is little time for self care such as exercise, medical, dental or recreational trips.

Fortunately, there are a number of on-line resources that can help. Here are a few that come highly recommended:

- Harvard Special Health Report, Caregiver's Handbook: www.health.harvard.edu/CG
- and the nonprofit Family Caregiver Alliance: www.caregiver.org, part of the National Center on Caregiving.

The latter is a rich source of free caregiver video education. All caregivers need to be aware there are many new tools to manage a family member's health as well as their own.

IRS FRAUD-SCAM ALERT

Master Police Officer Shelly Bryant, Virginia Beach Police Department

The Virginia Beach Police Community Engagement Unit would like to warn citizens not to be fooled by the tricks scammers use to take advantage of you. Everyone should be alert to threatening phone calls or emails demanding you to make immediate payment to the IRS. A large number of taxpayers are still falling prey to this scam, especially our elderly population. Large amounts of cash are still being sent to scammers by victims.

Here are five things the IRS will Never do:

1. Call to demand immediate payment or call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement agencies to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1.800.366.4484 or at www.tigta.gov.
- You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant; choose "Other" and then "Impostor Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

SeeClickFix

- An app which empowers citizens with an easy way to report community issues that need the City's attention.
- You can report items such as street light outages, poor roadway conditions, drainage problems, graffiti, landscaping issues on public or private property, etc.

Download the App and/or visit:
<https://en.seeclickfix.com>

ePRO

(*electric Police Report Online*)

- An interactive web application which gives citizens easy access to:
 - ⇒ Crime reports by street
 - ⇒ Traffic accident reports
 - ⇒ Search active warrants

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/police/Pages/epro.aspx>

Nextdoor.com

- A private communication App for your neighborhood and a great way to stay informed of events and issues occurring around your community

ReportIt

- FREE remote property inventory system
- Provides you with a convenient location to keep a secure, online record of your valuable property to include serial numbers, pictures of jewelry, high dollar electronics, scanned receipts, etc.

<https://reportit.leadsonline.com>

“OPERATION SMOKE DETECTOR” PROGRAM

The “Operation Smoke Detector” Program is a community service project that is funded by donations from businesses, community groups, and citizens of Virginia Beach. The project is designed to provide and install smoke alarms in homes of qualified Virginia Beach citizens who do not have smoke alarms or are unable to install them on their own.

The program is available to citizens that are Virginia Beach residents who own AND live in the requested home. Residents may also qualify if:

- They do not already have a working smoke alarm
- Are not financially able to purchase the alarms
- Have at least one child under the age of 18
- Have anyone over 60 years of age.

Maintenance of the smoke alarms (battery, etc.) is the responsibility of the residents.

Please schedule your request through the “Operation Smoke Detector” Program by calling 471-5826. A recording will ask for your name, address, and telephone number. Within a few days, you will be contacted for additional information and the closest Fire Company will make an appointment to install the smoke alarm(s).

Please contact the Life Safety Division with any further questions at:
Direct: (757) 385-2875 Email: vbfire@vbgov.com

BE VIGILANT WHEN SECURING YOUR PROPERTY - CLOSE & LOCK

Master Police Officer Shelly Bryant,
Virginia Beach Police Department

Larcenies from vehicles are still happening every night in Virginia Beach. You could be next if you leave valuables, spare keys, garage door openers, money, purses, wallets, backpacks, electronic devices, GUNS or anything in the vehicle. Most larcenies from vehicles occur because the vehicles are left unlocked with valuables inside. If your property must be left in your vehicle at the very least conceal your property in the trunk.

Also, please take a moment to consider locking the doors to your home and securing your garage doors. Even if you are in the yard doing yard work, close and lock your doors. Please stay aware of your surroundings while you're outside. Remember to "Lock It or Lose It."

CHECK THOSE DRYER FILTERS

You're probably good about cleaning your dryer's lint trap. But it's also critical to check for lint build-up in and around the dryer duct and vent filter. Of the 2,900 home dryer fires that are reported each year, failure to clean the unit is the leading cause according to the U. S. Fire Administration. For best results, invest in a dryer cleaning kit, which makes it easy to access the vent filter through the dryer's duct work. It is especially important that elders be checked for this habit. This never occurred to me while my parents were alive and a handyman assisted them. Upon evaluation, he found YEARS of accumulation going unchecked. That was a fire waiting to happen and thankfully, we got to the duct in time!

<http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>

ARRIVALS

Welcome our new neighbors: Steven Banton of Hillview Blvd., David Black of W. Goodview Dr., Douglas Lynch, Jr, of Homeward Dr., and Amanda Ewing of N. Sunland Dr.

DEPARTURES

The Perez Family of Hillview Blvd, Nancy Stephens of W. Goodview Dr., Patricia Carter of Homeward Dr., Halcott Carter of N. Sunland Dr., Cynthia Kennett of Fireside Lane, who passed away September 18, and condolences to the family of Maurice Person, a longtime resident of Homestead.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRY COLLECTING PRE-SCHOOL BOOKS

Chris Medlin

In an effort to promote early literacy skills, the Church of the Ascension on Princess Anne Road offers to Pantry guests 3 pre-school books per visit. If you are cleaning out and looking for a worthy cause, consider dropping them off at 1028 Hillview Bvd and I will deliver them. Thank you.

RAISING HUMANS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

If you need practical, positive advice on how to handle your and your kids' digital lives, look no further. The author, Diana Graber, is a digital literacy educator and advocate for online safety. She also has developed Cyber Civics, a popular and innovative middle school program.



Visit Homestead's website to enjoy color photos of past Homestead events. <http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>

COYOTE ATTACK

This summer, on Lake Christopher Drive, a resident's dog was attacked and killed by a coyote. While this didn't happen in our neighborhood, all Homesteaders should be vigilant when outdoors and while walking their pets.

Trash Day Important Information;

Information gathered by Lorrie Riddle

- ** Three Feet of Clearance between cans and anything else (mailbox, cars, yard debris) to allow enough room for the claw to raise and lower the can without hitting anything.
- ** Yard Debris Only in Clear Bags, no trash.
- ** Residents are encouraged to please make one or two large piles, rather than multiple small piles, as this allows for crews to be more efficient when collecting yard debris. Two piles, generated from each house, will be collected. Pile(s) cannot exceed 4 x 4 x 4 feet. Limbs cannot exceed 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter. Do not tie bundles in string or ribbon.
- ** For operational efficiency, Waste Management does not provide "broom service" as this would slow down the service to the 126,000 homes. Residents shall be responsible for collection and proper disposal of the small twigs and leaves that fall from yard debris piles.
- ** Dump your recyclables into the blue recycling can. Any bags received at the TFC processing facility are automatically placed in the trash. They do not open bags to see what is inside. No loose plastic bags. They clog the machinery.
- ** For larger amounts of yard debris, yard waste containers are available for rent. Please call Waste Management to schedule a delivery. (757) 385-4650
- ** The Virginia Beach Landfill and Resource Recovery Center, located at 1989 Jake Sears Road, is available to Virginia Beach residents for a wide range of recycling and disposal needs. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday
- ** Bulky Item pick up; a request can be submitted by phone (757) 385-4650 or on line at; www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/Pages/service-requests

If you have any questions you may call (757) 385-4650, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit www.vbgov.com/wastemgt.
For Recycling visit; www.tfcrcycling.com

INVITATION FROM ILR

Are you at least 55 and interested in attending innovative educational lectures about timely topics and issues? We have classes taught by faculty from area colleges, universities, or topic experts. Why not join the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), that meets at the Virginia Beach Campus of TCC on Princess Anne Road?

Enjoy intellectually stimulating lectures, discussion groups, social events and trips. Class offerings include history, art, lifestyle, science and technology, political science, and topics of local interest. Classes are two hours long meeting either 10-12 pm or 1-3 pm.

You can select from over 90 classes per year which cost only \$14 each, with a yearly membership fee of \$20. We are a community of Lifelong Learners, over 600 strong, and would love for you to join us!

Contact us for more information: (757) 756-4861 or email office@ilrvb.org.

WOODSTOCK PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

What to know more? You can get regular updates at: hrsd.com/woodstock-park.



Member

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