
The Homesteader

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2024



2024 Hawaiian Luau Block Party

I just wanted to give a huge shout out and thank you to everyone that helped out with the block party. We had 145 people come to the block party. Kids had their face painted, caricatures, Poi eating contest, Limbo contest, and a search for the special ducky. There was a Hula dancing show with ladies in different costumes, thanks to Jessica Fearer. Her group asked us to advertise them in case someone would like to use them for an event. Please see our advertising page. They were fantastic! Our Facebook page has way more pictures but here are just a few.

THANK YOU to: Nancy Sokol for the ideas and her family for pitching in to help with set up and face painting and helping with the games! Mike Rheinhart, Brian Vick, Chip Claytor for cooking and serving the food. Doug and Rachel Lynch for being the MC. Mike Jennings for being the DJ. Jesse and Denise Dukes for having the party in their yard and helping with set up. Our volunteers that helped with working the front entrance table and other things like making sure everything was in place for the food, side dishes, games were held and all that just made the party a little extra special. Thank you so much! We have a great neighborhood and I hope everyone had fun and can come next year.



Upcoming Events



Homestead Civic League Meeting

Tuesday
November 12th
at 7PM

Providence
Presbyterian Church

Holiday Party

Monday
December 2nd



We are forming a block party committee to help coordinate and come up with new ideas. The past 2 years, Nancy Sokol came up with the ideas and we made it happen. Please let me know if you are interested or contact Lorrie Riddle. She is getting a list together to help coordinate our new committee.

Stay Connected with Neighborhood Events

Visit our Facebook Page
& Website Page

homesteadinvabeach.org

Homesteaders.....

We had a few break ins on Old Homestead Lane. The perpetrators came in through the back side so no ring cameras captured anything. I just wanted to remind everyone to stay vigilant. Here are a few tips from articles that are on the internet about preventing crime:

- 1.If you see anything suspicious, please contact our non emergency police number at 757-385-5000. Our police department is usually pretty responsive to Homesteaders.
- 2.Make sure vehicles, windows to your home, and doors are all locked.
- 3.Always make your home look occupied by using timers if you aren't home.
- 4.Tell all your neighbors around you if you are going out of town. Keep those connections tight.
- 5.If you go out of town, stop your mail, newspapers or other deliveries or have a neighbor go pick up your deliveries. Packages and mail is a sure sign you are not home.
- 6.Make sure trees and shrubs are cut back so that intruders don't have a place to hide.
- 7.Walking? Have your cell phone on you. At night, wear reflective gear & have flashlights.
- 8.Also let someone know you are going for a walk.

Overall, Homestead is a safe neighborhood. We have neighbors that want to look out for each other. But as we all know, when prices of things go up, so does the crime rate. We want everyone to stay safe. Gary Medlin is looking to step down as neighborhood watch liaison. If you are interested in being a neighborhood watch captain, please contact Gary Medlin or come to our civic league meeting on November 12th. For more information about protecting your home:

<https://police.virginiabeach.gov/community/safety-crime-prevention-tips>

Keep your curb cleaned up and your yard trimmed up

By: David Ashcraft

Sometimes it is challenging to keep up with a yard and a home. Keeping a clean curb and well-kept yard does more than enhance your home's appearance; it improves property value, supports neighborhood pride, and contributes to the safety and health of your outdoor environment. A clean curb not only enhances curb appeal, making your home look more inviting, but it also signals that the property is cared for, which can elevate the entire neighborhood's appeal. Keeping the neighborhood streets free from overgrown grass, weeds, and yard debris will keep things looking tidy. While placing yard debris on the curb is convenient, timing is crucial. Virginia Beach has designated days for yard waste collection, and placing your debris on the curb too early can lead to several problems and be an eyesore. During storms, loose yard debris or bags drifting down the street can clog our drainage systems, leading to flooded streets. We all go through hard times and get caught up in the flow of life; whether it's from working long hours, caring for sick family members, looking after kids, or handling unexpected challenges. Let's all take pride in our homes and yards as considerate neighbors. If you ever need help with yard maintenance, don't hesitate to reach out! We're a community of friends ready to lend a hand or help you find someone who can. Please do your part to keep your yard tidy and remember to set out trash, clippings, and other yard waste only on Thursdays or Fridays before pickup. This way, we avoid having it sit out for days, keeping our streets clear and our neighborhood fresh and inviting. Thank you for helping make our Homestead community a great place to live! For more information, <https://pw.virginiabeach.gov/trash-recycling/curbside-services/trash-collection>



Tax relief for seniors and disabled! The city of Virginia Beach has information about tax relief. Check it out and maybe you qualify. www.cor.virginiabeach.gov/tax-relief/senior-disabled

Realestate:

Basic Requirements to Qualify

- Senior citizens must be at least 65 years of age.
- Totally disabled individuals must be totally AND permanently disabled
 - there is NO age limit - \$10,000 income exclusion allowed.
- Must reside in the Virginia Beach home or a convalescent facility.

Tax Exemption/Freeze

- Annual household income must not exceed \$78,408 for tax exemption.
- Annual household income must not exceed \$102,305 for the freeze.
- Total assets must not exceed \$350,000 (not including value of home, and up to 10 acres of land)

Stay connected:

If you have a new neighbor or a neighbor that moved out, send me an email through our website: www.homesteadinvabeach.org/home or Email directly at dddfox1@verizon.net

Go to our Facebook page, "Homestead" neighborhood 23464 (Current residents only) and see what is happening. Click on our events to see what is coming up. Or ask a question. Let people know you care about this little neighborhood we call Homestead. I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year.

If you want to be involved, volunteer. Volunteers are always needed to help with set up for events, pass out newsletters, flyers, and of course look out for your neighbors to keep crime down.



HOMESTEAD YARD AND BAKE SALE

I know you remember our sale of 2023. A terrible rainstorm was predicted for that Saturday and it never rained. We moved the sale to the rain date the following Saturday and it poured. This year we tracked the weather carefully and it looked like we were going to be good to go on the morning of September 7th but no, it rained cats and dogs. I was hoping it would be a short shower but that was not the case! We were setting up our bake sale in the court on Hillview Blvd and we knew there was no way we were going to be able to stay there. We called our unofficial mayor of Homestead, Ron Harriman, and asked if we could use his garage. He was more than welcoming. We moved our baked goods to his garage. The bake sale signs were moved, a quick post on FB was added to tell everyone where we were, and the sales began. There were only about 10 homes that had yard sales because of the rain and many families wanted to try again on the following Saturday. On the following Saturday, we had 20 homes participating in the Yard Sale and we had another Bake Sale. We made \$877.50 total from our two bake sales.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came through on the rainy day and then back the following Saturday to set up and sell. A huge shout out of thanks for all the bakers! We had over 30 volunteers who baked the most delicious treats!! Without their time, effort, and great baking skills, the bake sale would not have been possible. Homestead bakers are absolutely the best.

On a personal note, for me the best part was the ability to come together. We had plenty of chairs for neighbors to sit and chat. Many were meeting for the first time, and many have been old friends. It was a wonderful experience! Homestead "This is how America should look."

Karen Davis

Do you know the difference between a Civic League and a Homeowner's Association?

When most people buy a home, they don't want to be forced to pay big bucks and have a paid neighborhood committee tell them what they can and can't do. This includes everything from paint color to what you do or don't have in your yard, etc. No one wants that. This is America. Home of the free because of the brave. Homestead has had a civic league for decades. We as neighbors have kept it going to keep us connected, keep crime down, and to have a voice and connections with the local police precinct, councilman, and even our mayor all know who we are because of civic league presidents and members before us.

What is the difference between a Civic League and a HOA:

A civic association is a voluntary organization made up of community members who work together to address common concerns, improve their neighborhood, and enhance the quality of life for residents. A homeowner association has mandatory membership fees that could be as little as \$300 per month and they hire people to enforce rules about the look of properties in the community to keep things tidy as they see it.

Homestead Civic league charges you a \$7.00 a year donation. We don't tell you what to do with your property and we offer a lot for that donation. A HOA is a corporation usually formed by a real-estate developer. Homestead Civic League was formed by its members and things happen because of volunteers from our neighborhood not from someone paid to do things. If something comes up that we can't do and we need to hire someone, we vote on it at our civic league meetings. That way we the people make the decisions.

What do think we can do to improve what we do in our civic league? Do you understand everything our civic league does and has done in the past? Check out our website. Come to our civic league meetings. Send suggestions to the president. And most importantly, get involved to find out how we operate. We are family who look out for each other and we are a generational neighborhood where children buy homes here because they grew up here. They know the Homestead Civic League takes care of them and the neighbors look out for each other. It has been really nice to see a lot of new faces at our civic league meetings and at our events. We are very fortunate to have these connections for just \$7.00 a year! Let's keep it going.

Donna Zerby



Civic League Representatives

Donna Zerby, President (757) 747-9688
Gary Medlin, Vice President (757) 361-5826
Karen Davis, Secretary (757) 617-6364
Mary Glynn, Treasurer (757) 424-4499
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