Volume 20 Issue 2 July 2015



Hello Neighbors!

What are you up to this summer, besides getting ready for the sweltering heat? Maybe you are planning a get-together with family or friends, or a day trip in the sun. Whatever the activity, from beaches to special events, consider using the City of Portsmouth web page, **www.portsmouthva.gov**, for all your needs.

While reflecting on what Portsmouth has to offer, from historical landmarks to concerts in the courtyard, ask yourself, "how well am I informed about the city? Do I know about the city's past, its present course, or potential future? What about its leaders, their achievements and abilities? Do I really care, and if so, how can I make a difference?"

In less than three years, Portsmouth will be celebrating its 60th year as an independent city. As we approach this mark, we are reminded that Portsmouth's citizens made this possible. Not by being bystanders, but by becoming actively involve in creating a city in their image. A city that they believed in. And now as citizens it is our right to continue that vision by becoming an involved citizen.

The most fundamental form of citizen involvement is through the civic league. No, not the secret societies that hang around the fireplace and discuss acts of treason, but the civic league where information is shared, discussed, and common concerns addressed. Where citizens can network with others, as they are made aware of what's going on in the neighborhood and city. Each meeting of the Long Point civic league contains reports from the police and fire departments, as well as the Neighborhood watch. Often, there are city leaders, or representatives from public organizations to share information.

Come and participate in our next meeting on July 16rd at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 4320 Twin Pines Road. The meeting is at 7:30. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Message from LPCL Publisher by M Schuelke, 757 729 8900 <u>spmike@cox.net</u>



As the newest member of this fantastic organization of extremely hard working, devoted, people who believe in this neighborhood, I encourage each and every member of Long Point to take stock and consider the following poem by an unknown author.

Why hesitate?

Upon the plains of hesitation are the bleached bones of countless millions, who on the threshold of victory sat down to wait, and in waiting they died.

www.longpointcivicleague.com

By Tom Cochran, NW Coordinator, 484-7757, ptcochran@cox.net

"Suspicious Minds"



This is the Elvis song that cropped into my mind when Andre Mayfield, our NW Block Captain, handed me a list entitled, "**WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS**?" He obtained the list from a source with VBPD. It states, "Basically anything that seems slightly out of the ordinary...could be criminal activity." The WordNet Dictionary's defines suspicious as "not as expected." Without a doubt we all have had the "I didn't expect to see that" or wonder, "This does not seem normal" and then, "Now what do I do?" experience. Here is your chance to learn at the next civic league meeting. Provided below is a partial list.

- Door-to-door solicitors without properly issued licenses and identification should be suspected.
- Offers of goods or repair work at an unusually low price could indicate stolen property or some type of fraud.
- "Business" transactions conducted from vehicles, especially around schools or parks. A steady flow of strangers to and from a particular house on a regular basis could indicate drug sales or a fencing operation (purchasing of stolen goods).

Unlike Elvis' song, don't be, "caught in a trap!" Let's not keep to ourselves. I encourage you to get to know your neighbors. By doing just this, we can have a dramatic effect in reducing crime in a neighborhood our size. By relying on each other and leading a helping hand when needed, we can become an effective watch to keep crime out of our neighborhood and city.

Please report any suspicious incidents or activities to the Portsmouth Police Dept. at the **non-emergency number 393-5300**, and then notify your NW Block Captain and/or myself, your NW Coordinator.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Agenda

We are stepping up to stay on track with PPD Crime Prevention Requirements for being a qualified

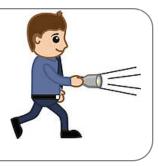
Neighborhood Watch. Our NW Meeting will be held at 7:30pm before our Civic League meeting opens for league business. We truly desire your participation. Will you please attend?

- NW and Patrol Updates and Reports, caution, unattended garage doors left open...
- NIO Officer Washington, Crime Status-BOLO's (Be on the Lookout)...
- NW Training Requirements, next training class, Sept. 3rd, 6pm...
- Fraud Alert. Interactive-Share Experiences, suspicious alarm solicitations, etc...
- National Night Out-Network Opportunity, City's Event, Oct. 10th, 9am...

DID YOU KNOW ?

That the early policing of Portsmouth was provided by a group of men known as watchmen and watchmen are still recognized in Florida.

ref.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watchman_(law_enforcement)



MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM THE TREA\$URER JoAnn Cawood 484-3413 joann48@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP: Things are looking upI received 4 responses from the many reminder emails sent about membership renewal. In the past, response has been zip, zero! Of those renewals received since January, probably 50% came as a result of the Drive Up/Sign Up held on April 18th. Our **GOAL** is to extend the automatic sprinkler system to the side flower beds which will be a hefty expense. Without membership renewals and new members, this task will be even more difficult. When this portion of the irrigation system is completed, the flower bed at Hofflers Creek will be the only one without a constant source of water. This is something that is impossible for us to do as much as we would like to.



DONATIONS: The Board members send their gratitude to Gregory & Francine McIntosh, Bruce Arceneaux, and Virginia Griffin for donating additional funding to maintain the front entrances with flowers, weed killing solutions (a never ending battle), sprinkler maintenance, and the quarterly water bill. Also, to a nice person that gave Dan cash while he was working at one of the entrances whose name I do not know.

FRONT ENTRANCE & FLOWERBEDS: This spring, thanks to Dan Schreiner, Jessica Zoby and Paul Smith, only perennial flowers were planted in the beds. (With the decrease in membership dues, it is not cost effective to plant the colorful annuals twice a year.) Their manual labor in the hot weather was a sweet *(sweat)* gift! Dan and Tom Cochran are to be commended for fixing the irrigation system that burst during the very cold winter. Tom also saved the League the cost of purchasing a new timer/controller by spending several hours refurbishing it after a nest of ants took up residence making the piece of equipment inoperable.



Words alone cannot express our thanks to, **Anthony Claud, Claud's Lawn Care** (a Long Point resident) for donating and spreading the mulch for ALL the flower beds.

Anyone who is so inclined to pull a few weeds from any of the beds, PLEASE feel free to do so. We could use the help at any time whether or not it is a planned work Saturday.



Recycling Reminder Visit <u>www.PortsmouthVA.gov/genserv</u>

Dates for Long Point **2015** are: July 27; August 10, 24; September 9, 21; October 5, 19; November 2, 16, 30; and December 14, 28. Garbage cans and other trash for pickup should be placed at the curb for collection at any time after 5:00 p.m. the day before collection and by 7:00 a.m. the day of collection. Empty garbage cans must be removed from the curb by 7:00 p.m. the day of

collection.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Captain William Carver, a ship owner and master mariner, received a land grant in 1664 for the land of Portsmouth. But due to his activities in the Bacon Rebellion, Captain Carver was hung in 1676 for treason by Governor Berkeley. ref.www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Carver_William_d_1676

By Peggy Cochran, LPCL Neighbor, 484-7757, ptcochran@cox.net



We as a neighborhood and civic league have worked hard at making **Long Point** a nice looking neighborhood.

The CURRENT Phase; we are now planning to install sprinklers in the two flanking corner entrance beds. This will involve a couple of contractors, one to do the boring underneath the street so we can connect to our main water source and another contractor to install the sprinklers and timing system in the two corner beds. This has been estimated to be approximately \$3,300. So, we once again ask our wonderful neighbors to invest in the beautification of Long Point and donate to this project so we can continue to protect our landscaping investment of shrubs and flowers.

Previous phases you have watched evolve over the years...

- The new wood sign up front, as some of you remember, about 10 years ago it was already seeing some extensive weathering, and then to top it off, a car accident ran into it and damaged the sign and brick work. Insurance helped us with some of the costs for that project.
- The next phase was our Beautification Project for the flower beds to be upgraded/restored along with some landscaping improvements and even creating a new bed at the end of the Hoffler Creek Parkway median for some interest at our other shared entrance. With the added bonus of our lighthouse structure! This however would be a huge undertaking starting about 8 years ago. The **City of Portsmouth** had a special Grant Program to help residential developments fix up their neighborhoods; supplying them with a percentage of funds to help with their projects. So we tried to get approval for this grant, and though it took over a year, we received matching grant funds from them for this, along with several of our neighbors contributing donations and kind contractors who gave us generous discounts. That project gave us a water meter, with a spigot, but no sprinklers, so our struggle to keep the beds alive between the rain showers was a challenge, usually resulting in **Tom Cochran** filling up trash barrels and siphoning water from a hose into each of the beds for hours.
- This brings us to the next phase. About 2 years ago, we had the first part of the sprinklers installed onto the main entrance median. Through heavy fundraising efforts and generous donations we were able to have that phase completed. We now have a nice irrigation system to take care of the 2 beds in the main median, but the other 3, the two flanking corner beds and the Hoffler bed are still being watered manually.

So you know, between the cost of plantings, most are perennials but we plant some additional color every spring and fall purchasing at a cost between \$350-500 each time. Mulch is also quite expensive for 5 beds but this year it has been **very generously** donated by **Anthony Claud, of Claud's Lawn Care**, who also resides here in LP. As you all know, City water is **not "free"** and we are required to have a plumber perform a mandatory (backflow) test annually; these expenses can drain our funds quite rapidly.

Amazingly, if we could get EVEN 50 to 75 percent of the homes to just pay their annual dues of \$20 a year per household, our desperation for funds for these projects and others for LP wouldn't be necessary. Unfortunately, the reality is we have less than 20% of the over 500 homes in LP! It's so sad to see so few neighbors take so little interest in the betterment of their own neighborhood. In addition it just makes it look so much nicer whenever any of us or our visitors enter LP; and it actually contributes to increasing our property values. It totally baffles the Civic League and active members of why more people don't help by supporting the



League with \$\$ and volunteering. It really doesn't take much, in fact, the more that participate, the less it takes! You know the saying, "many hands make light work"??.. Pick up some litter, pull some weeds, take an hour out of your life and attend one of our quarterly meetings and contribute your \$20 a year.

Please help us protect your plant investment and take pride in your neighborhood and at the very least, renew or become a Long Point Civic League Member by paying your annual \$20 dues (own or rent). If you're in the position to afford a hardier donation to aid us with the cost of the project, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You in advance to our Long Point Neighbors.

Renew/Become a LONG POINT CIVIC LEAGUE member TODAY!		
NAME:	EMAIL	
ADDRESS:	How long ?	
HOME PHONE #	CELL#	
LPCL DUES (\$20) \$	ADD'L LPCL DONATIONS: \$TOTAL \$	
Deliver or Mail to: JoAnn Cawood, Treasurer, LPCL, 3904 Flagship Way, Portsmouth, VA 23703		

by Dan Schreiner, LPCL Vice Pres. (Master Gardner Volunteer w/ Virginia Cooperative Extension), 412-8637, <u>firefytr360@yahoo.com</u>

Long Point Gardener: Planning Perennial FlowerBeds

You may have noticed that the flowerbeds at the front of our neighborhood on Long Point Boulevard and at the entrance on Hoffler's Creek Parkway have a new look to them. This is because we have been implementing a gradual switch from planting mostly annual flowers, to perennial plants and flowers. The biggest reasons for this switch are to save money and lessen the workload in the long term. It had been quite a task to plant a couple hundred annual flower pots in both the spring and the fall, and



an expensive proposition to boot. A lot of thought went into planning out the new bed designs and carefully selecting and positioning plants. Planting a garden of flowering perennials does not have to be intimidating. It's a great way to add more interest to your landscape than the same boring annual flowers that everyone plants year in and year out. Here's how we went about it and how you can too.

When you are looking at your present flower bed or planning a new one, step one is sketch out the shape of the bed and write down the dimensions of the space. Some people like to use graph paper and draw the garden to scale. We took several pictures of the space with the present plants in place so that we could truly have an understanding of how much space there was to work with, and where there were holes that needed to be filled with additional plants. A safety tip - be sure to call Miss Utility if you are rototilling up a new area of your yard. Cable TV wires for instance, can be buried as shallow as 6" below the surface. You certainly don't want to risk hitting a cable or even worse, an electrical wire or gas line!

Once you have the bed sketched out, you can start planning what types and sizes of plants to put in. Generally, select taller plants to place in the back of the garden, and shorter plants up front. It sounds like common sense – but you don't want to block some of your plants with taller plants. We took our garden sketch to the garden store with us when we went shopping for plants. When you see an interesting plant at the nursery, consider a few things:

How big will this plant grow? What amount of sunlight does it need? When does it bloom, and for how long does it bloom? Can it handle our very hot/humid summers? Does it require a lot of pruning to keep it looking good?

Take the answers to these questions into consideration to help you select appropriate plants for your spaces. If you are purchasing several of the same plant, consider buying an odd number, and grouping the plants in clusters and bunches, instead of neat rows. This looks more natural and organic, and if one of the plants dies, you are not left with a hole that clearly shows and sticks out like a sore thumb.

Select a variety of plants that bloom at different times of the year so that there is always color and interest to draw the eye. Also select a variety of leaf shapes and textures so that viewers will be drawn into scanning the whole garden to take it all in. Read the instructions carefully when planting each of your new plants, as perennials cost more per plant, and you don't want to lose a plant because you simply planted it too deep for instance.

Perennials create a great foundation for a complete garden. You can add a few annuals for season-long color, which is what we are doing with the Long Point Beds. Perennials will require some care at the end of the growing season as winter approaches. Many of them die back to the ground. You can trim the dead stems down to the ground and dispose of the dead materials or keep them in place to provide shelter for small animals and birds.

I used to be somewhat intimidated by perennials, thinking only expert gardeners dealt with them. Now, I have discovered a whole new world of colors, shapes and textures. We have now incorporated the perennials into our neighborhood landscaping, and I hope you like the change. You too will fall in love with perennials because they offer such an amazing variety of plants - some that you have never seen before and some that will amaze you! Happy gardening Long Point!



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- Gasoline Desel Fuel & Starting Fluids
- Motor Oil

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- Rechargeable Nickel Cadminn
- Rechargeable Nickel Metal Hydride
- Rechargeable Small Scaled Lead Acid

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- Home Heating Oil
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- Lighter Fluid
- Nail Polish Remover
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- Insect Repellants
- Mouse & Rat Poisons
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- Fuorescent rates
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Pesticides

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- Punning Pinning, Stami, & Soupe
 Paint (Oil & Enumel Based)
- Paint (On & Enable Engel)
 Paint Removers, Strippers, Thinners & Turpentine
- Paule Removers, Suppose, Funders & Funge
 Researching Chamingle

Photographic Chemicals

"Save These Dates"

Thursday, July 16, 730 p.m. LPCL, Meeting at St. Marks Church 4320 Twin Pines RD 2015 meet 10/15

Falltime Portsmouth's National night Out Event LP's Halloween Booth

"Meeting Agenda"

Neighborhood Events / Treas. Report Neighborhood Watch / Crime Update Guest Speakers:PPD NIO, Office



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Remember the Titans	Sun., June 28
Spider Man 2	Sun., July 5
Annie	Sun., July 12
Big Hero 6	Sun., July 19
Planes: Fire Rescue	Sun., July 26
Toy Story 3	Sun., August 2
Maleficent	Sun., August 9
Paddington	Sun., August 16
Cinderella	Sun, August 23
The New Ninja Turtles	Sun., August 30

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Long Point Neighbor



Anthony Claud President / CEO Phone: 757-399-3800 aclaud@claudslawncare.com

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St. Mark United Methodist Church

R. KIRK CULPEPPER Pastor

Cell: (757) 434-0078 Fax: (757) 485-0096 E-Mail: Rkc6121@aol.com 4320 Twin Pines Road Portsmouth, VA 23703 Church: (757) 483-6384

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Let's hear it for our Long Point Civic League Board Members!

They volunteer much of their personal time and business expertise to help us better our neighborhood and have a voice for our community. (Please consider serving. Your Civic League NEEDS "YOU"! POC: Peggy, 484-7757, ptcochran@cox.net, or any of the exec. board members)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

(cut this out and tape it on your phone at home and program into your cell phones,

even your teens can help be aware)

911 - to report life-threatening incidents or a crime in progress
 393-5300 - Portsmouth Police Dept.-Non-Emergency number, to report crimes that have already occurred & suspicious concerns
 235-5668 - Officer Washington's Cell-Our NIO
 484-7757 - LPCL/NWC Tom & Peggy Cochran



Paul Bell (757) 484-1725

Membership Recruiting JoAnn Cawood 484-3413 joann48@cox.net

2015-2016 Membership Dues January 1 to June 22

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