



RIVERSIDE NEWS

Message from the President

Hello Riversidians! Summer is almost over so I hope you have been able to enjoy the weather in spite of the ghastly Dominion bills that come with it.

One way to enjoy summer is to sit at our beach property and feel the breeze of the James or even to venture into the water. Hopefully the parking passes have made some of you feel comfortable coming down for the first time in perhaps years. The passes are intended to both provide increased parking opportunities and as an educational tool for outsiders to understand that the beach at 551 Riverside Drive is private property and non-residents are trespassing unless accompanied by a resident.

Antidotally, I have heard from many who feel outside traffic is down significantly, and a big test will be when CNU students return around the time you read this. We have worked extensively with the University, and they are very cooperative in letting students know what is expected with respect to the neighborhood next to their campus. **Please note that we do not distinguish between renters and owners when it comes to residency, so some students may have perfectly valid access to the beach.**

Passes were distributed to all 863 houses in the May newsletter. If you are curious why it went to all houses and not just RCCA members, well that goes back to original DS Jones paperwork in the 1930s. The actual wording from March 1, 1937 that we are honoring as each of us being an assignee, says: "...Roads and Parks...shall be held in common by and between the parties to this deed, their heirs, and assigns" This isn't in any of your deeds, but it likely would

have been in a modern HOA. The Board of the Riverside Community Civic Association has long honored his wishes and does not limit access just to RCCA members. Of course, at \$10 a year, you would like to think everyone would want to be a voting member of the organization that pays the taxes and maintains the property!



The Family Cookout was held on a beautiful day in June. Neighbor DJ Crain spun the tunes and Pat Freeman again served as lead griller. Turnout was down somewhat, perhaps because of the long Juneteenth weekend and Harbor Fest in Norfolk.

Please send me a note about ideas for increasing attendance and volunteers. I have heard from more than one person who said it isn't fair to the few volunteers who make all our events happen. Please contact a board member or use the contact-us form on the website if you can help.

We are looking forward to a fabulous Riverside Day in September!

John Scott, RCCA President

3rd Quarter 2026

RCCA Events

Riverside Day

September 19

5 - 9 at the Beach

Wine & Cheese Social

Oct 24 5 -9

Black Friday Bonfire

Nov 27 at Dusk

Local Fall Fun

CNU Home Football

NN Apprentice Sch, 9/5 7:00

William Paterson, 10/3, 1:00

VSU Castletown, 10/24, 12:00

Rowen, 10/31, 1:00

College of NJ, 11/7, 1:00

Ferguson Center

ZZ Topp, Sept 16, 7:30

Cirque Kalabante, 10/9, 8:00

Bruce Hornsby, 10/17, 7:30

Golden Girls, 10/18, 2:00

Cirque Christmas, 11/25, 7:30

Port Warwick

Art and Sculpture Festival

October 10-11, 10-6

Hilton Village Fall Festival

Oct 24, 11:00-5:00

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About the RCCA

The Riverside Community Civic Association (RCCA) is the community association for the Riverside neighborhood, located between the Mariners' Museum, James River Country Club, and Christopher Newport University.

Mission

Our goal is to keep the residents of Riverside informed and engaged in order to strengthen our community. The RCCA is involved in several areas including: the Neighborhood Watch program, management of the common area property, beach improvements, road safety, and neighborhood relations (City, CNU, and Police).

Activities

The Board is active in planning and hosting several community events throughout the year, like the Easter Egg Hunt, Riverside Day, and the annual Family Cookout.

Membership

RCCA membership was 162 as of Aug 16 2026. Membership in the

RCCA is voluntary with a minimum \$10 donation per year. We will publish the current list of members in each newsletter to recognize our contributors and help our residents keep track of their membership status.



Support from our residents pays for community events, upkeep of the beach and common areas and neighborhood improvements. Your membership also allows you a vote at the annual meeting. The RCCA provides a community forum to discuss neighborhood issues and addresses concerns with the City, University, and other organizations.

We thank you for your support, and

ask that you please help the RCCA by initiating or renewing your membership each year. Our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 thru Dec 31.

To Join

Use the preaddressed envelope found in the 1st Quarter newsletter, or mail it with your own envelope to:

Tracy Johnson
322 Central Pkwy
Newport News, 23606

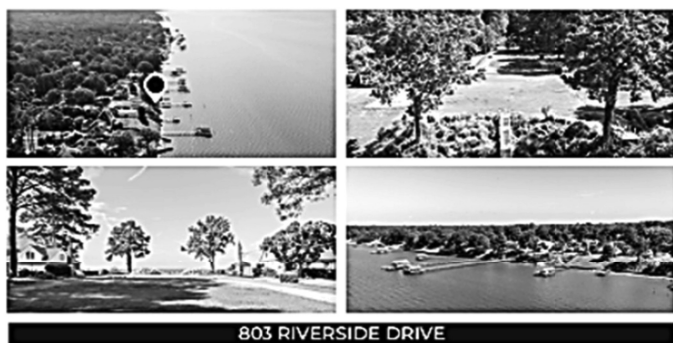
You can also join by using Venmo on our website with the QR code below. Make sure you enter your name as you want it to appear in the Newsletter, as well as your address in the note box so that we can give you credit.

Contact Us by visiting

<https://rcca-newportnews.com>

or use the board member contact info on the back of the newsletter.

RCCA
@RCCA-NNVA



803 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
\$1,400,000 | 0.92 ACRES

Dreams of waterfront sunset views can now be your reality. Rare opportunity to find a cleared lot on Riverside Drive to build your dream home. This 92-acre waterfront homesite offers approximately 99 feet of frontage on the James River with deep-water, navigable access in the Newport News' coveted Riverside neighborhood. Pier permit is approved, and pier construction may begin once your home floor plan is approved. New wooden steps lead toward the shoreline, where sweeping river views create exceptional setting for your custom retreat. Enjoy a premier location near James River Country Club, Riverside's private neighborhood beach, and scenic 5-mile Noland Trail. Less than a mile from Mariners' Museum and close to Virginia Living Museum. The property is near the Lions Bridge, located at the mouth of the Noland Trail. Martha's Way boardwalk, overlook platforms with benches. Bring your builder and create a distinctive waterfront home in one of the area's most desirable settings.



239 SHOE LANE
\$475,000 | 3 BEDS | 2 FULL, 2 HALF BATHS | 2,601 SF

Sought-after Riverside lifestyle. James River COUNTRY CLUB AROUND THE CORNER and the 5-mile Noland Trail nearby. PLACE YOUR FEET IN THE SAND at neighborhood beach. Nestled near the end of Shoe Lane, this 2601 sq.-ft. home has a backyard oasis with brick patio leading to the CRYSTAL-BLUE WATER POOL. From the BENCH-LINED DECK go inside to the sunroom or the primary suite. Custom eat-in kitchen is equipped with a wall of cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, 9-foot ceiling with accent beams above the table. Step outside onto the brick patio with herb garden. Large dining room with built-in cabinets and drawers, spacious window-lined sunroom, and family room with gas fireplace. FIRST-FLOOR PRIMARY SUITE SPANS THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HOME with a huge en-suite with long vanity, jetted tub, and separate shower. 2 bedrooms upstairs with Jack-and-Jill bathroom plus extra half bath in first bedroom. Close to Mariners Museum, VA Living Museum, Shops, and Restaurants.



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Neighborhood Watch

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for our National Night Out gathering at the start of August. That did not stop a few hardy board members and spouses from attending to discuss RCCA's recent efforts with the police to reduce trespassing at the beach. By most accounts, there has been progress made, with fewer incidents noted. Thanks to Kevin Hoffman who could not attend, but still provided refreshments for those who came with their umbrellas.



Riverside Day

Where: Riverside Beach

When: September 19, 5:00 - 9:00

Why: To Celebrate the best neighborhood in Newport News

What: Live music, games for the kids, balloon creatures by Susan, delicious food and drink, and dessert from an ice cream truck! Dinner will be catered, but feel free to bring sides or salads for the vegans in the neighborhood.

Who: All residents of Riverside. RCCA membership is not required, but membership dues pay for this event. Donations are always welcome, or for a mere \$10 you can join that night.

Parking: Available on Central Parkway with "No Parking" signs covered.

Volunteers Needed: Shopping, setup, serving and cleanup.

For event updates, check the website, and signs posted around the neighborhood.

We hope to see you all there!

Garden Pioneers Shannon Hays

Resilient Plant Communities, August 2026

Much like broader history, gardening history is shaped by reformers who challenged tradition to improve society. With few exceptions, decorative gardens over the years were primarily a perimeter of shrubs enclosing a few tender annuals like geraniums and petunias with maybe some bulbs thrown in for good measure. Shrubbery was heavily clipped and shaped to match the masonry and architecture of the stately homes they surrounded.

The early twentieth century saw complex perennial gardens begin to take shape in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, England, and Germany. They were the preserve of wealthy landholders, requiring high levels of maintenance by dedicated staff. Few survived the upheaval of the First World War. Then, an interwar revival of interest in traditional formal gardens began to bloom, including in the U.S., and the idea of growing adaptable perennials in a more natural style, using ornamental grasses began.

Dutch gardener Mien Ruys (1904-99) was frustrated. The soil in the trial pots at her father's nursery was too acidic for her experiments. But rather than choosing costly amendments, she sought out acid-tolerant plants. Matching plant suitability to existing conditions was her specialty, as she pioneered mixed perennial plantings in communal spaces throughout Holland, bring horticultural beauty to the masses.

Continued on page 10

Family Picnic Fun



RCCA’s Family Picnic was a ton of fun! A big thanks goes to Scott Brinkley, who took lined up guests on a spin in his boat down the James. The look on Kylie Throupe’s face sums it up perfectly! Also thanks to the DJ’s Crain, who provided the perfect set of tunes for the gorgeous day. Finally, thank you John Scott and Pat Freeman for your grill work. It is always appreciated.

Country Club / Riverside YTD Offenses	
Jan 1, 2026 - August 8, 2026	
Row Labels	Count
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	1
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	3
DAMAGE PROPERTY	1
EXTORT	1
FRAUD/FALSE PRETENSES/SWINDLE	1
IDENTITY THEFT	1
INTIMIDATION	1
JUVENILE - RUNAWAY	3
LEAVING THE SCENE	1
MISSING PERSON	1
SIMPLE ASSAULT	2
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	1
THEFT PARTS FROM VEHICLE	1
Grand Total	19

Country Club / Riverside YTD Offenses	
Jan 1, 2025 - August 8, 2025	
Row Labels	Count
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	1
BURGLARY/B & E	2
CPS REFERRAL	1
DECEASED PERSON	1
FRAUD BY WIRE	2
IDENTITY THEFT	1
JUVENILE - RUNAWAY	1
LEAVING THE SCENE	1
OVERDOSE	1
SIMPLE ASSAULT	4
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	2
Grand Total	17

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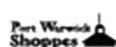


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Garden Pioneers continued

Garden architect and plant breeder Karl Foerster (1874-1970) led a group of enthusiastic designers drawn from the Berlin region to remake several royal estate gardens with his signature use of ornamental grasses and mixed perennials that he bred himself.

The prolific legacy of this group dubbed the Foersterians was decimated by war, but his introduction of 83 varieties of garden phlox, 38 sunflowers, 35 asters, and 72 delphiniums are still commercially available in Germany today. In the U.S. he is remembered for his salvias, such as “May Night,” and especially his namesake hybrid feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* Karl Foerster).

The postwar desire for simplicity suppressed horticultural expression, as lawns grew and intensely maintained geometric hedging returned. Interest in native flora and perennial varieties arose in the 1950s flower arranging community. English designer and nurserywoman Beth Chatto used subtleties in plant features to produce interesting leaf patterns with muted colors.

Environmental awareness in the 60s and 70s grew in reaction to the unsettling and rapid disappearance of native habitat. Big players like the Royal Botanical Society promoted biodiversity-focused planting on both large and small scale. Dutch gardeners assumed the title of Oase (oasis) in their zeal to fill spaces with native flora. Germans were encouraged to diversify public and private sites with the wild-friendly style known as Lebensbereich (habitat). Universities, research institutes, and botanical societies invested heavily in plant and ecology science.

I recall participating in weekend privet pulls in mixed hardwood forests of the Mississippi Delta in the 90s as public awareness of invasive plants spread and became to some a moral crusade. In the past 20 years or so, landscape architects, designers, and home gardeners have had access to an incredible array of native plants and their high performing cultivars. The so-called “New Perennial” movement has

begun an impressive turn from color blob plantings to methods grounded in permaculture and aesthetic design, using grasses and sedges for structure in public and private gardens.



Karl Foerster's May Night Salvia



Foerster hybrid feather reed grass is known for its structure.

Leading designers like Piet Oudolf, Claudia West, Roy Diblik and Thomas Rainer have graced spaces with their signature innovations in their swoon-worthy gardens – the Lurie Gardens in Bicentennial Park Chicago, the High Line in Manhattan, D.C. Memorials and hundreds of gardens along the east coast and abroad. Their expertise in plant sociology and methods of distilling landscape archetypes like grassland, and forest into the design, lowers labor costs, requires less irrigation and imported soils and pesticides. Combining that with value-added carbon sequestration, climate resilience, habitat conservation, and the documented mental health benefits of emotionally rich landscapes, should encourage even casual gardeners to adopt perennial plantings. And the mow-blow-and-go pros will be rewarded with new skills that leave the fumes and the noise behind.

Gardeners and designers are only beginning to recognize this rich seam in planting design. Despite meeting the challenge of sustainability with the same gusto as the Foersterians and New Perennialists at international conferences or in other collaborations, the concepts are not widely understood by contemporary landscapers and gardening societies. Unfortunately, neither their templates for nuanced mixed plantings or their more easily accessible mosaics of native plants are widely used by professional landscapers, despite rising demand for natives and cultivators.

As native plant ideologues clash with those whose “meadow mindset” is tempered by the realities of public acceptance of mixed perennial plantings, we should all grasp the economic and ecological advantages they hold over conventionally managed landscapes.



Grace United Methodist Church

Pastor Rev. Paulette Almond

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info



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October 11th— Blessing of the Pets

November 29th— Advent Begins

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RCCA Board Contact Information (Years as Board Member)

President (11 years)	John Scott	21 Cale Circle	(757) 599-4787
Vice President (8 years)	Scott Cone	604 Riverside Drive	(646) 853-0261.
Secretary (10 years)	Kevin Hoffman	327 Parkway Drive	(757) 596-0553
Treasurer (11 years)	Mac Collins	121 Tipton Road	(757) 871-0356
Board Member (17 years)	Tracy Johnson	322 Central Parkway	(757) 303-1100
Board Member (10 years)	Sue Peters	115 Dogwood Drive	(757) 303-2864
Board Member (8 years)	Debi Warren	100 Riverside Dr	(757) 291-3324
Board Member (4 years)	Wolfgang Leesch	504 Riverside Drive	(646) 512-0448
Board Member (3 year)	Tara Helmick	7 Sir Francis Wyatt Place	(757) 618-0540
Board Member	Steve Beal	317 Longwood Drive	(757) 846-3981

Community Contact Information

RCCA	Contact Information	
RCCA Board via Contact Us form on website	RCCA-newportnews.com	General questions, comments
Neighborhood Watch	riversideNNneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com	Kevin Hoffman
Newsletter	suelspeters@gmail.com	Sue Peters, Editor
Membership	Tracy Johnson	Mail dues to 322 Central Parkway
RCCA Email	nnvarcca@gmail.com	
Neighborhood Events Committee	RCCAeventscommittee@gmail.com	Open
Neighborhood Improvements	757-871-0356	Mac Collins
Neighborhood Communications	suelspeters@gmail.com	Sue Peters
Welcome Committee	757-291-3324	Debi Warren
Nextdoor Social Media Network	riversidenewportnews.nextdoor.com	Forum for sharing news with Riverside neighbors
Facebook Social Media Network	Riverside Community Civic Association	Open Forum available to general public for sharing news with Riverside neighbors
Facebook Social Media Network	Residents of Riverside NNVA	Closed Forum for residents only to share news with Riverside neighbors
Community		
CNU Community Relations	(757) 594-7190	Issues with CNU students
Police Non-Emergency	(757) 247-2500	Riverside is located in the Central Precinct
Central Precinct	(757) 591-4978	Use to file a report
Animal Control	(757) 595-7387	Strays, injured or dead animals
City Service Contact Center	311 or (757) 933-2311	Codes, Stormwater, Road Maint., Sewer
City Water	(757) 926-1000	Evenings or weekends, call 234-4800
Dominion Virginia Power	1-866-366-4357	Dominion Power also maintains street lights
Cox Cable	(757) 224-2222	Problems with cable TV service
Virginia Natural Gas	1-877-572-3342	Gas leak or service questions