



# RIVERSIDE NEWS

## Message from the President

**C**old! I hope nobody suffered frozen pipes or four-digit utility bills! The hallmark of a coastal Virginia winter is that it rapidly changes, not that it stays cold for two weeks. Had it started with 15 inches of snow like originally predicted, we might still be covered. Undeterred by the arctic conditions, two young men, caught on our security cameras, challenged each other to a swim in the James on a sunny 37 degree day. Not to be outdone, another hardy soul swam alone at 17 degrees in the middle of the night. Talk about “swimming at your own risk!”

Attendance at the Annual Meeting of Members and Community Forum on Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> was at least energized if not bountiful. We again were fortunate to have full representation from city departments, CNU and NNPD as well as our two Central district City Councilmen, Rob Coleman and our own Riverside neighbor Cleon Long. The police sent their top two in command of the Central Precinct.

This level of access is pretty unprecedented, and they appear happy to attend and address whatever concerns we raise. As such, I would feel better if more of us were present.

Once again, City Life Church hosted us in their fine facility. We appreciate them opening their doors for us every year for our annual meeting. The slides used during the meeting are available on our website.

We again failed to have a quorum

required to conduct elections during the Annual Meeting of Members. The Board assumed responsibility to elect membership for 2026, but we look forward to having enough in-person attendance and proxies to conduct a proper election next year.

The board’s annual budget meeting will have occurred just before you read this. Last year at this time we were considering a capital campaign to repair the wall at the beach property but through the extraordinary



efforts of a handful of very skilled neighbors, we completed the project using regular operating capital. Please understand how seriously we take the obligation as stewards of your annual membership donations. Thank you for providing the funds needed for the care and maintenance of our common land and for allowing us to provide the food,

drinks and entertainment at our social gatherings each year. We need your generosity to make those happen; the sunsets are free. See page 4 for our latest financial report.

Finally, thanks to the board members and other neighbors who graciously volunteer their time to make Riverside the special neighborhood that it is to live, play or raise a family. Please contact a board member or fill out the “Contact Us” on the website if you would like to serve on the board or volunteer on a committee.

**John Scott, RCCA President**

## 1st Quarter 2026

### RCCA Events

#### Spring Cleanup

March, 21st at the Beach

#### Easter Egg Hunt

March 28, 10 -10:30 Beach

#### Riverside Yard Sale

April 25, 8:00 - 1:00

### Local Events

**Mariners’ Museum /YMCA Swap** March 1— 31

CNU Graduation May 15,16

#### Ferguson Center

Ella Fitzgerald Jazz Celebration April 24 7:30

Don’t Let the Pigeons Drive the Bus May 2, 2:00 and 4:00

#### Newport News Park

Children’s Festival of Friends May 2, 10 - 5

#### Port Warwick

Summer Concert Series May 25—Aug 31  
Wednesdays 6 - 9

#### Hilton Village

Spring Festival, April 27, 11-5

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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

Our 2025 RCCA membership was 181. 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 here. 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 credit.



**Contact Us** by visiting

<https://rcca-newportnews.com>

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



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2018-2022, 2024-2025

Riverside Community Association Board Member

Licensed in Virginia



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### Beach Behavior

Our neighborhood beach is for the exclusive use of Riverside residents and guests. As RCCA private property that is shared by many, behavior at the beach should be considerate of others present. Because it is private property, the RCCA sets the rules. Ample signage reminds us what is not allowed, and what to do if there is an issue.

Street parking in the immediate area of Central Parkway and Riverside Drive is labeled as No Parking and could be subject to ticketing and towing enforcement as the beach becomes more active with better weather. Ironically, if we get aggressive with enforcing the No Parking area, there is nothing we can do to prevent parking just beyond it, pushing traffic further into the neighborhood.

Our bylaws provide for the ability to issue membership cards, and the same could be done with parking passes for the limited spots in the gravel lot. In the past, processes like these seemed daunting. Any suggestions, observations or concerns would be greatly appreciated. Please use the Contact Us form on the website or contact a board member listed on the last page.



Start going thru your closets, it's time for the RCCA community yard sale! Planned for the spring again on **Saturday, April 25** the RCCA will coordinate advertising, but permits must be purchased by each participant at the Dresden police office. You can also fill out the form on the RCCA website, and mail it in with your \$5 fee. Please let us know if you plan to participate by using the website contact form on **RCCA-newportnews.com**. We will then add you to the neighborhood map of participating households.



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### Martha's Way

The Mariners' Museum and Park continue their work on the construction of "Martha's Way." The final phase of the three-phase trail project began with last month's road closure. Crofton Industries has completed pile driving to allow construction of a boardwalk and two overlooks on the rip rap along the James River waterfront.

Martha's trail is being built to honor Martha Goodson, a former resident of Riverside Drive. For years, Martha, who developed early Alzheimer's, was concerned for the safety of Riverside residents who were walking or cycling from Riverside Drive to the waterfront. It is exciting to see the project moving forward, honoring her legacy with a path that improves public safety and enjoyment of the natural beauty of our neighborhood.



2025 RCCA Financial Report		
	2024	2025
<b>Revenue</b>		
Newsletter Advertising	6,025	4,275
Dues/Donations	18,488	16,705
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 24,513</b>	<b>\$ 20,980</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Beach upkeep/repairs	956	875
Beach projects	1,488	20,692
Common Area Work	0	0
Easter Egg hunt	108	139
Family Cookout	956	766
Utilities	4,529	3,893
Wine & Cheese	657	646
Riverside Day	4,081	3,698
Liability Insurance	912	665
Social Media	191	246
Newsletter	3,479	3,993
Welcome Program	645	778
Office Expenses/Taxes	301	293
National Night Out	131	89
<b>TOTAL Expense</b>	<b>\$ 18,433</b>	<b>\$ 36,773</b>
<b>Contribution to General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 6,080</b>	<b>\$(15,793)</b>
<b>Year-end Balance</b>	<b>\$ 31,154</b>	<b>\$ 15,730</b>

### Riverside Crime Reports

City-wide, crime in 2025 was down significantly. Although the city has had a rash of homicides this year, our neighborhood continues to be one of the safest in the city, with only 3 offenses year to date. Our collective cooperation and vigilance make Riverside a less-attractive area for criminal activity. Thank you!

Country Club / Riverside YTD Offenses Jan 1, 2026 - February 17, 2026	
	Count
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	1
JUVENILE - RUNAWAY	1
LEAVING THE SCENE	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>

City of Newport News 2026 YTD Offenses Jan 1, 2026 - February 9, 2026	
Offenses	Count
HOMICIDE	1
RAPE	3
ROBBERY	18
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	71
<b>VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>
BURGLARY	37
LARCENY	298
VEHICLE THEFT	25
<b>PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>453</b>

Country Club / Riverside 2025 Offenses Jan 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025	
Offenses/Reports Taken	Count
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, SIMPLE ASSAULT	1
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	1
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	1
BURGLARY/B & E	3
CPS REFERRAL	2
DECEASED PERSON	1
EXTORT	1
FORGERY/COUNTERFEITING	1
FRAUD BY WIRE	3
HACKING/COMPUTER INVASION, OBSCENE MAT	1
IDENTITY THEFT	1
INDECENT EXPOSURE	1
JUVENILE - RUNAWAY	2
LARCENY	2
LEAVING THE SCENE	3
OBSCENE MATERIAL	1
OVERDOSE	1
SIMPLE ASSAULT	6
SIMPLE ASSAULT, FAMILY OFFENSES, NONVIO	1
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	3
VEH RECOVERY(OUT OF JURIS)	1
WEAPON OFFENSE	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>

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# 2026 Members 23 members thru March 1

**\$500 and above** 1 member

**\$250 to \$499** 4 members

**\$100 to \$249** 10 members

**\$50 to \$99** 3 members

**\$10 to \$49** 5 members

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# **2025 Members**

**\$500 and above - 7 Households**

**\$250 to \$499 - 9 Households**

**\$100 to \$249 - 58 Households**

# **2025 Members continued**

**\$50 to \$99 — 50 Households**

**\$10 to \$49—56 Households**



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## Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee was hard at work last month making and delivering beautiful Welcome Baskets to our newest members of Riverside. Thank yous go to committee chair Debi Warren, and helpers Heather Larrieu, Standice and sons Derrick and Dylan Melvin, Jennie Alexander and Rachael Mizell of James River Country Club for making and delivering 16 baskets to our newest neighbors. If you have recently moved into the neighborhood, and have not had a visit from our Welcome Committee, reach out to Debi Warren 757-291-3324.



Please join us in welcoming our newest residents of Riverside, Michael and Renate Hanrahan. Long time residents of Rochester NY, they had been looking to purchase a home in Newport News, Gloucester, Smithfield, etc. for a while. They happened to come across their house on Mimosa and just fell in love with it. The area was quiet, well-kept, and convenient to many restaurant/food options.

Mike and Renate's story began at a discotheque in Rochester, NY in 1970. Mike went on to work at Eastman Kodak Co. Research Labs in Rochester, NY for 50 years before retiring. He had various careers during that time including Synthetic Organic Chemist, Formulation Engineer, Semiconductor Manufacturing Manager, Thin Film Coating Engineer, and Precision Optics Engineer. Renate was a medical secretary to an ear-nose and throat surgeon prior to taking on the full-time job of home-schooling their 3 children. When the children were grown, she enjoyed working as a Senior Certified Picture Framer at Ben Franklin in upstate NY for 15 years.

The Hanrahan's have 7 grandchildren ranging in age from to 3 to 18 and are most proud of the fact that all 3 of their children and grandchildren over the age of 6 are God-fearing Christians who are actively involved in their respective churches.

Although at the present time they do not have pets, they have had 3 female cats over the years. Spooky (scared of her own shadow), Hephzibah ("My delight is in her") and Leeloo (from "The Fifth Element" movie) all were rescue animals.

In his free time, Mike enjoys bike riding, sailing, and swimming. He is also a skilled handyman and spends a lot of his time fixing, remodeling around the house as well as woodworking making furniture, bird houses, etc. He puts his skills to work by volunteering at Thrive, either by performing various remodeling and building projects, or delivering groceries to clients who have no means of transportation. Renate is fond of knitting, crocheting and various crafts. Welcome to Riverside!



## Spring Cleanup

In preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt, the RCCA is organizing a cleanup effort on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the beach property.

We'll meet at 9:00 but feel free to join us any time before noon. Please help take care of our beautiful beach property by bringing garden tools (rakes, loppers etc.) to clear brush and prepare our native garden for spring.

Any amount of time you can contribute is appreciated.



All are welcome, so feel free to bring the family! Thanks in advance for helping to take care of Riverside's "Crown Jewel."

## Easter Egg Hunt



On Saturday March 28, the RCCA will host our annual Easter Egg hunt starting at 10:00 at the beach. Each year, Riverside children find over 1,000 eggs carefully hidden by the Easter Bunny, and his helpers.

Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny has upped his game this year with a glowup! This event is open to all Riverside residents and their guests. There will be a supervised egg hunt for children age 12 and under with a special area for age 4 and under. In the case of inclement weather, this event will be moved to the Saturday before Easter, April 4th.



# Grace United Methodist Church

*Pastor Rev. Paulette Almond*

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March 29 — Palm Sunday Worship  
 April 3— Good Friday Service at 7pm  
 April 5 — Easter Worship 10am followed by Egg Hunt, crafts, snacks and storytime for children and families

**May Worship Series**  
 "A Journey From Easter to Pentecost"

**Summer Community Family Activities** dates and info coming soon!

[Check our Facebook Page for more info](#)

**f LIVE** Sunday Worship at 10 AM  
 Faith Formation Groups -11 AM

Pastor Conversations:  
 Tues. 8-9:30am Panera  
 Choir Thurs 5:30-6:15pm  
 Points of Grace Crafting Group  
 Men's & Women's groups  
 Ladies Day Out and more



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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

## Community Contact Information

RCCA	Contact Information	
RCCA Board	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
<b>Community</b>		
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