



RIVERSIDE NEWS

Message from the President

4th Quarter 2024

Our amazing newsletter editor Sue has an early deadline so I can only hope by the time you read this we have had a civil and conclusive outcome to the hallowed tenet of our great American experiment, election day.

I recently asked Newport News Codes about political signs in yards since they seem to run afoul of the city's strict sign ordinance which limits the size, location and duration a temporary sign can be displayed. I received a thorough and interesting response that I will paraphrase: 1) protected free speech competes with the city's interest in maintained yards 2) if sign ordinances were enforced it could be perceived as a partisan effort and finally 3) there are just too many signs to police during elections.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Riverside Day! Over 200 neighbors enjoyed BBQ from Smoke and frozen treats from the ice cream truck. The balloon artist again proved to be the hardest working person in Newport News and the musician was heard to exclaim "I get to play here!?" as he was driving down the path. Special thanks to the volunteers who put it all together. We always welcome new volunteers to join the effort.

I encourage everyone to come out to the Annual Meeting and informational forum. Every year the City and CNU send representatives to hear your concerns and provide updates on items important to the neighborhood. The level of support is exceptional and yet it is historically lightly attended, even after shifting it away from its previous mid-December slot.

This year, the Annual Meeting of Members will be at 7pm on Thursday, January 9th at City Life Church. In addition to the public informational forum, which is open to anyone, there are only two official re-

quirements for the meeting: One is to hear annual summaries from the committees (to include our finances) and the other is to elect board members. This can only be done if we have a quorum of 50% of our members. Membership is established by a household donating a minimum of \$10 for the year and doing so at least 10 days prior to the meeting. If you can't attend, please take the time to fill out the Proxy that is an insert in the newsletter or downloaded from our website and give it to your designated representative or email/text a picture of it to us. There will be a Zoom option, but it will be subject to the same registration process as if you attended in person so, please join early prior to the 7pm start. The Zoom information is published on the website. Between proxies, in-person attendance and Zoom attendance, if a quorum is not established, the rights of members to elect board members will be assumed by the current board, who will appoint members. If an election takes place, please feel free to stay after the meeting to monitor the count. Please remember, Officers are elected by the Board and not directly elected by the membership. Transparency and accountability are important to the Board, as we strive to make Riverside an even better place to live.

Please let a board member know or use the "Contact Us" form on the website if you would like to appear on the January ballot. Or contact us if you would like to attend the December 19th board meeting to learn about the duties and commitment of a board member.

Hope to see everyone interested in a better Riverside at the Annual Meeting!

John Scott
RCCA President

**1st leaf pickup
begins
Monday Dec 23**

**2nd leaf pickup
begins
February 3rd**

**Have leaves to curb no earlier
than one week before pickup.**

Local Holiday Happenings

Mariners' Museum
Story Time with Santa
Dec. 1 9:00-12:00

CNU
Holiday Happening Concert and
Lawn Lighting Dec. 8, 4:00

Ferguson Center
The Nut Cracker
Nov. 30-Dec 1
A Magical Cirque Christmas
Dec. 4 7:30

Port Warwick
Tree Lighting
Nov. 30 5:00-8:00

Hilton Village
Gingerbread Celebration and
Parade Dec. 14 4-8

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RCCA Notice of Annual Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 9th, 7:00

(registration begins at 6:30)

City Life Church
311 Selden Rd.

Zoom meeting option available
Connection details at
Rcca-newportnews.com

Black Friday Bonfire

Friday, Nov. 29

Riverside Beach at dusk

**Bring a chair and your favorite beverage to
enjoy the final bonfire of the season.**



If it's raining, it's not happening!

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 RCCA membership was 176 thru Nov 7, 2024. 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

You can join the RCCA by using the preaddressed envelope found in the newsletter and mail it to our Membership Coordinator, Tracy Johnson. 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 you with your donation.



Contact Us by visiting <https://rcca-newportnews.com> or use the board member contact info on the back of the newsletter.





PORT WARWICK HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Presented by **VHS** | Virginia Health Services

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH • 5PM - 8PM

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Christmas Tree Lighting • Meet with Santa and Take Pictures • Fairy Hair
Holiday Balloons • Games • Choral Groups • Face Painting • Train Rides

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CNU Neighborhood Relations Report

The CNU Neighbor Relations committee held its fall meeting on September 23rd. RCCA Board members John Scott and Kevin Hoffman were in attendance. While all nearby neighborhoods are invited, Riverside has been the only neighborhood to send representatives for several years. A variety of issues that are important to our neighborhood were discussed.

The CNU and Newport News Police Departments have enhanced their communications and cooperation for area nuisance calls. Several specific locations have been identified and are to get "extra" attention.

CNU reported that The Sun Trust bank building across from the Chick-fil-A and the former Coastal Dog Services building at the intersection of Warwick Blvd and Nettles Dr. are slated for demolition. The Sun Trust building will be torn down to make way for a large sustainably landscaped green area to be enjoyed by both students and the community.

Newport News has asked CNU for input to its 20-year comprehensive plan. Planning is beginning for another One City Marathon, currently scheduled for the first week-end in March.

Newport News reports that the Lions Bridge Dam project is about 95% complete. They are working on additional riprap along the shoreline. Wetland vegetation has been planted in select locations. When it matures, it will look like the vegetation along Kettle Pond.

The City also let us know of an even later pick up time for leaves this year, not starting until Dec 23rd. No-rain October has delayed when our leaves fall but there will still be a challenge complying with the only-one-week prior rule for getting leaves to the curb. The second collection isn't until February 3rd which only helps the street aesthetics if you abide by the rules and don't put them out early. Unfortunately, the alternative is bagging, which cuts into the supply source for the compost the city sells. RCCA's website has a link to the schedule and an interactive tracker of exactly what streets have already been serviced.

The next Neighbor Relations meeting will be scheduled at a later date in the Spring.

Speeding on Country Club

Speeding on Country Club seems to be a perennial problem. Parents dropping children at Riverside Elementary get a first hand look at residents who travel well above the 25 hour speed limit, sometimes with phone in hand. Suggestions such as repainting the crosswalk lines for better visibility and getting a radar enforcement sign, have been made. The police are working with the school to explore the possibility of adding a crossing guard to the other crosswalk so they are both manned.

The city also has a process to request traffic calming, such as speed bumps. Among other requirements, 75 signatures from impacted neighbors are needed to be considered. Please contact board member Tara Helmick (contact information on the last page) if you would like to help.

Please follow the speed limit on Country Club. It just doesn't seem like it should be so hard to do.

RCCA's Native Plants Landscape Program

Unlike traditional landscaping, Native Planting focuses on providing the host plants for insects that are the foundation of mother nature's food chain. Emphasis is on allowing the remains of plants to stay in place over the winter to provide homes and food for beneficial insects. This includes "leaving the leaves" and other biomass to complete the life cycle of returning nutrients to the soil.

This "wild" and "messy" look does not align with traditional landscaping that evolved from the formal gardens of the upper classes in Europe. Many native plants are thought of as weeds and their common names often include the word weed in them. Their flowers are not as showy in most cases and usually are much smaller.

However, a middle ground (no pun intended), could be a well-kept native (or partially native) garden as exhibited by our efforts at the corner of Central Parkway and Riverside Drive. Please drop by and see for yourself. The red Winterberry bushes are particularly nice this time of year.

This type of garden is the vision of the Back Yard National Park movement founded by Doug Tallamy. Doug, a renowned author and insect scientist, was the featured speaker at CNU's 2024 Gardening Symposium. His books offer a hopeful path to a future that restores insect populations crucial for our local web of life. He has written a children's version of his book, *Nature's Best Hope*, that helps to offset the "doom scrolling" affecting the outlook of some of our younger generations. For more information, take a look at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>. Maybe we really can make a difference.

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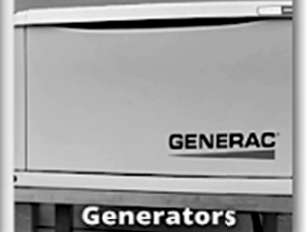
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Electrical

\$89.99 Inspection*

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Whole House Plumbing
Electrical

*Not to be combined with any other offer



Holiday Safety and Crime Prevention Tips from National Neighborhood Watch

A 2024 Security.org survey noted that 49 million Americans (nearly 19%) have had at least one package stolen in the past twelve months. Package theft tends to be a crime of opportunity rather than a reflection of localized lawlessness. Where parcels are numerous, unguarded, or exposed, incidents of piracy are likely to be higher regardless of overall crime rates. Billions of parcels will be delivered as we approach the holidays. Below are safety tips for your packages, as well as some for the houses where they're left.

Tips to Protect Your Packages:

- ◆ Network with Neighbors. Ask them to grab packages if you are unable.
- ◆ Reschedule delivery or ask for a package hold while out of town.
- ◆ Use your delivery company's smart lock feature.
- ◆ Install security cameras.
- ◆ Get a Package Guard.
- ◆ Get a P.O. Box at the Post Office.
- ◆ Use your delivery company lockers.
- ◆ Set up notifications to track your packages.
- ◆ Get your packages delivered to your office.
- ◆ Require a signature on delivery.
- ◆ Insure your packages.

What to do if you become a porch pirate victim:

- ◆ Check with your delivery company to make sure your package was actually delivered.
- ◆ Check with your neighbors (don't forget Riverside's Facebook page or Nextdoor).
- ◆ Know exactly what is in the missing box.
- ◆ Call 911 and ask for an officer to come to your home.
- ◆ If you have a security camera, get a copy of any video to police. Ask your neighbors if their cameras captured the thief in action.
- ◆ If you see the thief, pay attention to what his or her vehicle looks like and its license plate number. Second to that, get the thief's physical description – gender, approximate height and weight and what they're wearing – so you can tell an officer.

Protect Your Home

- ◆ Install secondary locks on all doors and windows (window pins, deadbolts, dowels, etc.)
- ◆ Don't hide spare keys in mailboxes, planters, or under doormats.
- ◆ Light dark areas and entrances with outdoor lights that are activated by sensors.
- ◆ Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Overgrown foliage provides a hiding place for criminals.
- ◆ Place gifts where they can't be seen from the outside.
- ◆ Consider a safe deposit box or personal safe for valuables.
- ◆ Mail cards, checks or gift certificates from the Post

Office or USPS collection box.

- ◆ Always lock your vehicle and remove valuables.

Strangers at your Door

- ◆ Use caution anytime there is a stranger at your door.
- ◆ Be suspicious of unexpected sales calls or deliveries. Ask for identification.
- ◆ Be aware of scams that take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays.
- ◆ Investigate charities before making donations. Ask how the funds will be used.

Leaving for the Holidays

- ◆ Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to watch your home.
- ◆ Use Alexa or set timers for lights and radios.
- ◆ Make arrangements for mail and newspapers.

After the Holidays

- ◆ Don't advertise expensive gifts. Compress large boxes and place in black garbage bags.
- ◆ Add items of value to your home inventory.
- ◆ Consider engraving new items to help identify them in the event they are .



Our neighborhood has been relatively crime-free, but there have been a few reports of late night issues. A vehicle on the 300 block of Central Parkway was broken into and doorbell cameras are recording people “strolling” through the neighborhood casually checking door handles. This is happening very late at night and/or very early in the morning. Make sure you leave lights on, lock your vehicles, and don't leave anything you don't want stolen within view of those “casual strollers.” We have also had a lot of late-night traffic at the beach, which closes at sunset. The RCCA has asked the police to drive by more often to dissuade the visits.

Wishing you a safe and happy Holiday season!

Treasurer's Report

Mac Collins reported at October's RCCA board meeting that income for both membership and advertising was up, while planned expenses were down thru October. Advertising revenue is projected to be up 15%. Recent expenditures include Riverside Day. So far this year, there have been no expenses for tree removal, so that expense may be avoided. Welcoming Committee expenses are projected to be greater than budgeted. Landscape expansion continues by allowing native plants, at zero cost, to prosper by identifying them and removing the surrounding weeds. We will need future funds to outsource some design, installation and long-term maintenance of the Native Landscape Program. We also hope to recruit and train more volunteers to perform these functions as the program grows. A completed 2024 financial statement will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

New Neighbor

Please join us in welcoming another happy resident to Riverside. Mary Baker moved onto Central Parkway in August. She first became familiar with Riverside in 2022 when one of her 3 children moved here from Hampton. Mary fell in love with our neighborhood and so began her journey to Riverside. Mary has been a senior IT asset specialist for 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ years at Hampton City Schools, where she manages IT inventory.

Family is everything to Mary, who is so proud of all her kids. Daniel (finance at Ferguson) and his wife Angela (engineer at HRSD) live in Riverside with their 2 children Betsy (6) and Petra (3). Megan is a teacher at Newport News Public Schools, while her husband Tyler is a self employed contractor. Finally, Hannah is a speech therapist who runs Speak Volumes Therapy in Newport News, and who is engaged to Kyle, a fire fighter in Norfolk. In her spare time, Mary enjoys biking, yoga and music.

Welcome to Riverside, Mary!



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Great progress has been made on the beach retaining wall. Special thanks to Kevin Jordan and Mac Collins for their hard work making this happen.

2024 Members

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\$250 to \$499 - 11 Households

\$100 to \$249 - 56 Households



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SCAN
ME





Grace United Methodist Church Pastor Rev. Forrest "Hank" Teague

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1209 Country Club Road, Newport News, VA 23606

(757) 595-0017 GraceUMC1209@gmail.com



LIVE

Sunday Worship at 10 AM

Faith Formation Groups-11AM

Sundays: worship & learning

Mondays: Troop 27

Thursdays: Pastor Pop-ins
Choir

Monthly/biweekly

"Points of Grace"

Men's Breakfast
Ladies Day Out

Connect ,Serve,& Grow with Grace

NOVEMBER

Worship Series- *Stepping Up In Faith*

11/24 Thanksgiving worship & meal, bless Tgiving bags

DECEMBER

Advent Worship Series- *Good News*

12/11 Serve CNU exam snacks and last donation day

12/13 Serve homeless at PORT shelter

12/24 Christmas Eve Candelight Service 6:30 pm

JANUARY

Worship Series- *I'M NOT OK It's Ok to tell God your not OK*

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RCCA Board Contact Information (Years as Board Member)

President (9 years)	John Scott	21 Cale Circle	(757) 599-4787
Vice President (6 years)	Scott Cone	604 Riverside Drive	(646) 853-0261.
Secretary (8 years)	Kevin Hoffman	327 Parkway Drive	(757) 596-0553
Treasurer (9 years)	Mac Collins	121 Tipton Road	(757) 871-0356
Board Member (15 years)	Tracy Johnson	322 Central Parkway	(757) 303-1100
Board Member (8 years)	Sue Peters	115 Dogwood Drive	(757) 303-2864
Board Member (4 years)	Debi Warren	100 Riverside Dr	(757) 291-3324
Board Member (2 years)	Wolfgang Leesch	504 Riverside Drive	(646) 512-0448
Board Member (1 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
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