

RIVERSIDE NEWS



Message from the President

4th Quarter 2025

Fall foliage beauty and hassle are upon us! It took "hail damage," that was actually acorn damage, to get us to park our cars in a different location for two months each fall. Automotive sheet metal must have been stronger in the past because this had never been a problem. Yet moving our cars is something we are willing to do to help preserve our aging, lush canopy. It is a tricky balance coexisting with mother nature and with the fact that 61 houses border RCCA greenspace common land, tree removal after disease or storm damage is an ongoing budget concern for the Board.

Last year the city tried but failed to guess a better time for leaf pickup, and, perhaps in response to feedback we provided at the annual meeting, has changed leaf pickup to start on Dec 1st with the second not until February 9th. The only-one-week prior rule for getting leaves to the curb was a real challenge last year around the holidays so hopefully this will be better.

Our website has a link to the leaf pickup schedule and an interactive tracker of exactly what streets have already been serviced.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Riverside Day! The perfect weather must have helped contribute to the biggest crowd in recent memory. Special thanks to the volunteers who put it all together, but we would welcome new volunteers to join the effort.

Included in the newsletter is the Notice for the annual meeting and a Proxy if

you cannot attend in person. The meeting is at 7pm Thursday, January 8th at City Life Church. After five years of optional participation of members by Zoom, members are asked to attend in person this year. A non-interactive live stream will be available. Look for details on the website.

In addition to the public informational forum, which is open to anyone, there are only two official requirements for the meeting: One is to hear annual summaries from the committees, 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. Between proxies and in-person 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. 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 our website RCCA-newportnews.com if you would like to appear on the January ballot. Or contact us if you would like to attend the December 18th 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 1

2nd leaf pickup begins
Monday, Feb 9th

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

Local Holiday Happenings

Mariners' Museum

Story Time with Santa
Nov. 30 9:00-11:30

Nature Time at Mariners Lake
Thursdays 5:00-6 thru Dec. 13

Ferguson Center

The Nut Cracker, Dec 20 -21
Mannheim Steamroller
Nov. 25 7:30

Port Warwick

Tree Lighting
Nov. 29 5:00-8:00

Hilton Village

Gingerbread Celebration and Parade Dec. 14 5-8

Inside This Issue

About Our Community	2
LTE Network Extenders	3, 4
Beach Security Concerns	3
Neighborhood Watch	4
Wine and Cheese recap	4
Membership	7, 8
Eco Talk	10
Contact Information	12

Black Friday Bonfire

Friday, Nov. 28



Riverside Beach at dusk

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

RCCA Notice of Annual Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 8th, 7:00

(registration begins at 6:30)

City Life Church

311 Selden Rd.

For more information, visit our website

Rcca-newportnews.com

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 thru Nov. 6 is 173. 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



Let me know if you want me to keep you updated on the real estate market. I can also give you *the scoop* on what's happening in Riverside. Whether you're buying or selling, I am happy to help with all your real estate needs.

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Boosting Mobile Phone Service with LTE Network Extenders

When mobile connectivity falters indoors, common symptoms include dropped calls, delayed text messages, and sluggish data performance. These issues often stem from weak or inconsistent cellular signal caused by building materials, distance from nearby towers, or geographic obstructions. This is a persistent problem in Riverside, causing dismal service that many of us have suffered with for far too long.

After a 6 year-long campaign of calling Verizon to complain about lack of mobile data coverage in this area, and the not-so-casually repeated dropping of the term “class action lawsuit,” I finally made progress. Verizon ultimately admitted that Verizon’s Network Repair Bureau has this area on their improvement list – i.e., it is a known area of deficient service.

The fix offered is insufficient, in my view, because it only addresses indoor connectivity. But at least it’s a start. The ‘mini cell tower’ (LTE Network Extender) that Verizon sent (free – seeing my history of calling) has improved my mobile data from 4G 1 or 2 bars to consistently 5 bars. Before my texts (especially with pictures) would remain unsent until I left home. Now they send. Halleluiah.

More details below, but please know that this is simply my personal experience – your mileage may vary. Additionally, there are claims about radio frequencies being harmful. I am not concerned about this but underscore it is the reader’s responsibility to make their own judgment.

Here are some details I hope you find helpful.

An LTE network extender offers a targeted solution by creating a localized, carrier-managed LTE signal inside your home or office, allowing compatible mobile devices to connect as if they were near a full-strength cell tower. LTE extenders rely on the stability and available upload bandwidth of your internet connection rather than the router’s WiFi performance.

The LTE extender uses your internet connection as the backhaul to the carrier’s system. When a Verizon-compatible phone, for example, connects to the extender’s LTE signal, its calls, texts, and data are automatically routed through your broadband connection to Verizon’s infrastructure. This enables clearer calls, faster data, and reduced signal dropouts in areas where the outdoor cellular signal is weak or blocked.

When selecting an LTE extender, look for: Carrier compatibility (e.g., Verizon-specific models; LTE extenders are provisioned by and compatible only with a specific carrier); Strong internal antenna or external GPS antenna for location registration; Secure VPN tunneling to carrier infrastructure.

Installing an LTE network extender is pretty easy. Connect it by Ethernet cable to your router and have it near your router, attach the GPS antenna to a window, and turn it on. There is an initialization routine that looks for satellites and links it to the router. Once active, the extender automatically provides improved LTE coverage to all compatible carrier devices within range. I have Verizon FIOS, so this means that the coax cable for TV still is connected to the router. It’s important to note that LTE network extenders operate on 4G LTE technology and do not provide 5G coverage.

Continued on next page ⇨

Beach Security a Concern

Security at the beach is an ongoing concern, which seems to have escalated since the warm weather of last spring. The property, which is owned by the RCCA for the use and enjoyment of Riverside residents, is maintained and regulated by the association. Currently only 174 member households are taking on that responsibility for the 858 houses in the neighborhood.

The board is considering options for ways to control reports of excessive noise, cursing, drug use, inappropriate physical contact, abusive speech, aggressive behavior and after-hour trespassing. The NNPD have been actively patrolling the property after hours since August, but they are limited in their enforcement of “no trespassing” because members and/or residents have the right to be on the “private property” based on rules made by the board.

We have added additional security cameras with Wi-Fi capabilities for parking lot monitoring. Other approaches being considered include:

- Issue membership cards.
- Maintain a database of membership license plates.
- Install a gate to close parking lot after hours.
- Eliminate the parking lot all together.
- Start towing cars.

NNPD says that upon request, they will enforce the current no parking signs on the streets nearest the beach entrance. Towing cars may seem drastic, but the safety of our neighbors is paramount. We would love to get your feedback.

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LTE Network Extenders, Continued

There are 5G small cells or 5G indoor coverage units that function similarly to LTE extenders but use 5G radio for faster speeds and lower latency. Carriers may vary in use of these.

Even when using an LTE network extender, the quality of your indoor connectivity depends heavily on the performance of your home router and broadband connection. I was told that older routers—typically more than 3–5 years old—may lack the hardware capability, wireless standards, or firmware support needed to maintain stable and efficient data transmission. This can lead to inconsistent performance, slow speeds, and dropped connections. For optimal operation of LTE network extenders and other connected devices, your router and internet connection should support: WiFi 6 (802.11ax), Dual- or tri-band operation, Gigabit Ethernet ports, Regular firmware updates, Sufficient uplink bandwidth (at least 5–10 Mbps—to handle voice calls, text traffic, and mobile data passing through the LTE extender).

Finally, I initially stated that I found this solution insufficient. While it has definitely improved mobile data service at home, it does not address coverage more widely in this area. I found it chilling to hear several repair people tell me that the dismal coverage in this area is well known. Being able to reliably communicate away from home - e.g., walking in Riverside, the parking lot of Riverside Hospital or the Noland Trail, is a major concern. If you have a conversation with your carrier, please underscore the need to address infrastructure repairs for broader reliable service in our surrounding area.

Hoping this helps. Kara Latorella

Editor’s note: We have just installed our new, free, Verizon LTE extender and are enjoying a steady 4 bars of service! We may ultimately need a new router, but this is getting us 90% there. Also, the Verizon reps encouraged us to continue to complain about inadequate service, noting that it really does help. We did not have a documented history of complaint, but just the fact that Riverside is a known problem area, they provided our extender for free. Hopefully, enough free LTE extenders might motivate Verizon to fix the root of the infrastructure problem.



Jazz guitarist Tony Mata set the perfect mood for RCCA’s Wine and Cheese / Bonfire. Thanks to John and Beth Scott, Leigh Stump, Keller Gough, Chris Ponce and Mac Collins for shopping, set up, bonfire manufacturing and clean up of yet another great party at the beach.

Treasure’s Report

The beach retaining wall project is complete and was constructed on budget for \$20,008. Overall, 2025 expenses are \$7,000 below budget. Year-to-date membership donations are short by \$1,700. These items reduce our 2024 year end reserves from \$31,000 to \$14,000.

Hopefully our members will help us build back our reserves in case we have major storm damage to our aging infrastructure or require the removal of fallen trees from RCCA owned community property. Thank you for your ongoing support. It is much appreciated.

Riverside Crime Report

Country Club/ Riverside YTD Offenses	
Jan 1, 2025 - Nov 6, 2025	
Offenses / Reports Taken	Count
BURGLARY/B & E	1
SIMPLE ASSAULT	5
SIMPLE ASSAULT, FAMILY OFFENSES NON VILENT	1
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	2
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	1
CPS REFERRAL	2
DECEASED PERSON	1
EXTORT	1
FRAUD BY WIRE	2
IDENTITY THEFT	1
JUVENILE - RUNAWAY	1
LEAVING THE SCENE	3
OVERDOSE	1
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	1
Grand Total	23

Crime is down City-wide and our neighborhood continues to experience a much-lower crime rate than the rest of the Central precinct and the City as a whole. Our collective cooperation and vigilance make Riverside a less-attractive area for criminal activity, so thank you!



PORT WARWICK HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Presented by **VHS** | Virginia Health Services

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 5PM - 8PM
3100 WILLIAM STYRON SQUARE N., NEWPORT NEWS

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Greet and take pictures with Santa.

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\$100 to \$249 - 58 Households

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\$50 to \$99— 43 Households

\$10 to \$49—55 Households



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Eco Talk

To work off our post-Halloween sugar rush, my family walked the five-mile Noland Trail around Mariners' Lake. The vibrant reds of the sourwoods, the scarlet-orange of black gums, and the kaleidoscopic shades of sweetgums created a stunning tapestry of color, all beautifully offset by the deep greens of pines, hollies, and still-green beech trees. Later, I came across a favorite color combination closer to the ground near Riverside Beach: the purple hues of asters and blue mist flowers stood out against the deep yellow, plume-like blossoms of native goldenrod.

For those of you familiar with the color wheel, yellow and purple are complementary colors, i.e. they are in direct opposition to each other, like blue and orange, and red and green. In a late 19th century treatise on perception, Goethe described the enhanced vibrancy of side-by-side complementary colors as those "diametrically opposed to each other" which "reciprocally evoke each other in the eye." To bring the royalty and nobility of purple and gold to your garden next fall, you could mix the native cultivars of goldenrod and ironweed (*solidago rugosa* 'fireworks' and *veronica noveboracensis lettermannii*, respectively).

In full sun plantings, I always like to include some reliable late season showstoppers from the genus *salvia*. Zone 8-10 *salvias* are resistant to deer and rabbits, magnetic to hummingbirds and butterflies, and are heat, humidity, and drought tolerant. It is not surprising that they are becoming ubiquitous in Hampton Roads gardens. My three favorites are mexican sage (*salvia leucantha*) for its outlandishly purple velvety spikes, pineapple sage (*salvia elegans*) for its edible leaves and red bracts, and anise-scented sage (*salvia guarantica* "black and blue").

For those of you who choose fall as the time to break ground and get a little dirt under your nails, take a moment to pat yourself on the back. Why? Because late

summer and autumn offer those few stretches of minimal precipitation necessary for working our native clay soils. To do so when wet, like in late winter and early spring, is both cumbersome and counterproductive. The goal when working with clay-based mediums is increased friability, which means a more crumbly and less compact soil. I will go into more detail in the next newsletter about optimal soil health, why tilling is rarely necessary, and how to avoid pervasive toxins like "biosolids" amendments.

In closing, I want to share a thrilling encounter I enjoyed with a gardener on Riverside Drive. Rebecca Fass was clutching a handful of gomphrena and calamint she had just clipped as I hollered at her from the boulevard. She graciously invited me to join her in her elegant, low-walled courtyard to see her garden. Partially sheltered by the golden leaves of a massive willow oak and bordered by rows of fringe trees (*chionanthus virginica*), the straight lines of alabaster-painted brick and Pennsylvania bluestone are softened with geometric boxwood hedges. These features blend with mostly native herbaceous perennials, creating an intriguing contrast—perhaps best captured by the sturdy horse head statue that could represent both power and freedom. Rebecca's design includes several specimens procured at the Virginia Living Museum annual plant sale, including threadleaf bluestar (*amsonia hubrichtii*), blue false indigo (*baptisia australis*), and stoke's aster (*Stokesia laevis*). Her selection of low growing blue-eyed grass (*sisyinchium*) and bee-balm (*monarda bradburiana*) with its excellent powdery mildew resistance, reveals an experienced gardener's acumen of utilizing a broad palette in a relatively confined space. Thank you, Rebecca, for letting me enjoy your harmonious garden design!

Shannon Hays, Jshannonhays@gmail.com



Purple hued Blue Mist and Goldenrod are complementary colors on a color wheel.



Grace United Methodist Church Pastor Rev. Paulette Almond

“WE WELCOME EVERYONE- WITHOUT EXCEPTION”

1209 Country Club Road, Newport News, VA 23606

(757) 595-0017 GraceUMC1209@gmail.com

Greetings,

I'm excited to begin this fall season as Pastor of Grace UMC. Whether you're new to this community or have lived here your whole life; whether you're retired or a student, or anywhere in between we welcome you, no exceptions.

It's an exciting time to be at Grace UMC and I hope you will join us.

Blessings,
Pastor Paulette Almond

Join us each Sunday for Worship at 10 AM

Beginning in September

- Faith Formation: Sundays at 11am
- Choir Practice: Thurs 5:30-6:15pm
- Troop 27 : Monday evenings
- Points of Grace Crafting Group
- Men's & Women's groups
- Ladies Day Out



Graceumcnn.org

Grow with Grace

August Worship Series

Summer Wonder
August 24 Blessing of Backpacks & Educators

September Worship Series

Life is Better Together
Bible Studies and Dinner Groups Coming Soon

October Worship Series

What We Can Learn From the Philippian Church
World Communion Sunday
All Saints Day



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RCCA Board Contact Information (Years as Board Member)

President (10 years)	John Scott	21 Cale Circle	(757) 599-4787
Vice President (7 years)	Scott Cone	604 Riverside Drive	(646) 853-0261.
Secretary (9 years)	Kevin Hoffman	327 Parkway Drive	(757) 596-0553
Treasurer (10 years)	Mac Collins	121 Tipton Road	(757) 871-0356
Board Member (16 years)	Tracy Johnson	322 Central Parkway	(757) 303-1100
Board Member (9 years)	Sue Peters	115 Dogwood Drive	(757) 303-2864
Board Member (7 years)	Debi Warren	100 Riverside Dr	(757) 291-3324
Board Member (3 years)	Wolfgang Leesch	504 Riverside Drive	(646) 512-0448
Board Member (2 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
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