

RIVERSIDE NEWS

Message from the President

It is funny how these quarterly newsletters do and don't correspond with the change of seasons. Last time I wrote of the arctic blast of winter and by the time you read this, it may be a summer-like broil, completely skipping our sometimes-lovely spring.

Our three spring events; beach clean-up, Easter Egg Hunt and Multi-Yard Sale, went well. Thanks to the newbies and old-reliables for prepping the beach for a bigger-than-last-year gang of kids who faced the brisk temps to snatch up the plastic-clad treats spread by the familiar acting, but different looking bunny and his helpers. We hope the kids liked the new look. Seventeen houses participated in the yard sale on a beautiful morning, down from 20 the year before and from as high as 30 according to the newsletter archives.

Our next event is the Family Cook-out on June 20th so there will be just enough time for you to read this and then offer to volunteer to help!

Speaking of the archives, activities at the beach have been a concern for over 50 years but it felt like there was an uptick last summer that carried over to some of the warm days this spring. There are several separate but interrelated issues: parking in the city right of way labeled with no-parking signs, parking by non-residents in our tiny gravel lot at the top of the trail to the beach and after-hour usage of the beach property and parking lot. No-parking signs hadn't been enforced by the city in years but on a sunny Tuesday in March several tickets were issued and cars towed.

A beach parking pass for our park-

ing lot has been included in this newsletter. A commercial towing company sign has been posted warning non-residents of the possibility of being towed. Please see the article on page 3 for additional information.

Nighttime activities have the attention of the NNPD. They have been enforcing the words on the large brick sign to the right of the parking lot where it says "beach closes at sunset." The board has updated the Trespassing agreement with the NNPD to be "parking lot and beach property closes at 10pm" and signage will be changed to reflect that. The board recognizes that enforcing the city no-parking spaces limits access by residents, but decided it was required in order to also limit access by non-residents.

Daytime enforcement on our lot should only affect non-residents after the initial inconvenience of obtaining a pass and re-

membering to put in on your dash. Enforcement of late-night trespassing hours will ensure that undesired noise, drug use and other activities are minimized. This all seems so draconian, but we have to balance beach access and beach behavior.

Welcome to our newest member of the board. Steve Beal was appointed just before our April meeting and we look forward to his added perspective and willingness to help improve our special section of the eastern shore of the southern part of the James River that we call home. Please contact a board member or fill out the "Contact Us" for on the website if you would like to serve on the board or volunteer on a committee.

John Scott, RCCA President



2nd Quarter 2026

RCCA Events

Riverside Family Picnic

June 20

5:00 - 9:00 at the Beach

National Night Out

Tuesday Aug 4th

5:00 - 7:00 at the Beach

Local Events

Mariners' Museum

Night at the Mariners'
Saturday, June 27 6:30

Lil' Mariners' Wonder Wednesdays

Early childhood program
June 24 to Aug 26
Wednesday mornings 9:30

Lionsbridge FC Soccer

Town Bank Stadium 7:00

5/24, 5/30, 6/10, 6/13, 6/20,
6/27

Port Warwick Concerts

May 20—Aug 26

Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00
See lineup on Page 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

RCCA membership was 119 as of May 20 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.

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The Easter Bunny was looking fine this year!

Beach Parking Pass Now Required

Effective with the receipt of this newsletter, residents of Riverside need to display the parking pass found inserted in this newsletter to park in RCCA's gravel lot at the beach. Violators risk being towed. This approach addresses longstanding concerns about non-resident use of the beach, by making it easy to determine residency. We are hoping this avoids the need for uncomfortable face-face confrontations, and makes our beach more enjoyable for our residents.

One parking pass will be issued to each household via the newsletter. Please fill in your address, and place it on your dashboard when parking at our gravel lot. With almost 900 families eligible to use the beach, it isn't possible to allow more than one pass per household. On busy days, when the lot is full, you can park your car on Central or Riverside beyond the No-Parking Signs.

On the back of the parking pass, you will find a listing of Riverside Beach rules, which you can also read below. Use the Contact Us on our website, or reach out to a board member if you need a replacement pass.

Thank you for being courteous to our neighbors and visitors as we enjoy Riverside's "crown jewel" together.

PRIVATE PARKING FOR RCCA RESIDENTS ONLY

NO UNAUTHORIZED PARKING

**ALL OTHERS WILL BE
TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE**

TOWING FEE \$175

STORAGE FEE \$40 PER DAY

TRACTORS \$375 TRAILERS \$375

STORAGE FEE \$55 PER DAY

TOWING ENFORCED BY



**For release of
vehicle call**

757-595-7290

Riverside Beach Rules

- RCCA beach property at 551 Riverside Drive, including the parking lot, is only for Riverside residents and their accompanied guests. The neighborhood is defined as the streets bordered by CNU, James River County Club, the Mariners' Museum and the James River. Others will be subject to NNPD trespassing enforcement.
- Parking lot is by permit only. One parking permit will be issued per household. Others will be subject to towing.
- City "No Parking" areas on Riverside Drive and Central Parkway are enforced by ticketing and towing. Additional parking is available along Central beyond the No Parking signs.
- Parking lot closes at 10pm. Trespassing will be enforced by NNPD.
- Activities on the property should not interfere with others' peaceful enjoyment of the beach.
- Open alcohol containers and social drinking are allowed only on the lower third of the property nearest the river so as not to be visible from the road. Cannabis use is prohibited.
- Refrain from tobacco use in the presence of others.
- Fishing is allowed with a license and shall not interfere with, disturb or create a safety hazard for others using the beach.
- Boats may be launched from the beach but should be removed from the area by 10pm.
- No lifeguard present. Swim at your own risk.
- The property is under video surveillance.
- Do not trespass onto adjacent property.
- RCCA is not responsible for legal ramifications for LSVs, golf carts and utility vehicles operating outside of full legal compliance with state and local laws.



Riverside Neighborhood Watch

Offenses in Riverside remain low and unchanged from 2025.

Your chance to talk to the police officers who patrol our neighborhood streets is coming up when **National Night Out** is hosted by our Neighborhood Watch captain Kevin Hoffman and the RCCA board. Watch our website and Facebook page for additional information when it becomes available. Light snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Visit rcca-newportnews.com

Country Club/ Riverside YTD Offenses

Jan 1, 2026 - May 18, 2026

Offenses	Count
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	2
DAMAGE PROPERTY	1
INTIMIDATION	1
JUVENILE - RUNAWAY	2
LEAVING THE SCENE	2
LARCENY	1
Grand Total	9



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CONCERT SERIES

AT PORT WARWICK

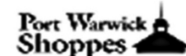


FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY, ALL ARE WELCOME

- 5/20** Brasswind Motown, R&B, Classic Horn Band Sound.
- 5/27** Bobby BlackHat Band Award winning recording artist - Blues Showcase. "You never know what's going to happen at a Bobby BlackHat show!"
- 6/3** Slapnation High-energy party band delivering Soul, Funk, Disco, Pop, and Motown dance hits.
- 6/10** Celeste Kellogg CMA, Nashville charting recording artist - Country, Rock, Pop.
- 6/17** The Deloreans 80's Band Electrifying 80's Cover Band.
- 6/24** BJ Griffin Band As seen on America's Got Talent - Mix of Classical, Funk, Jazz, Pop, R&B/Soul, Rock.
- 7/1** USAF Full Spectrum Band Eclectic mix of pop, rock, R&B, and contemporary hits performed by elite U.S. Air Force musicians.
- 7/8** Good Shot Judy Swing and Swagger with Classic Vocal Jazz/Swing Entertainment.
- 7/15** Anthony Rosano & the Conqueroos National Touring Artist, #1 on the iTunes blues chart - Funk, Rock and Roll.
- 7/22** Wonderland High-energy Band with no musical boundaries!
- 7/29** Be Kind and Rewind Ultimate 90's House party!
- 8/5** Midnight Rain Live band Tribute to music icon, Taylor Swift.
- 8/12** Down River Southern Rock and Traditional Country.
- 8/19** Roberta Lea Soulful Mix of Country and Pop. Named in CMT's Next Women of Country class of 2023, a member of the Black Opry and Veer Music Award winner.
- 8/26** Revelation Versatile, High-Octane Party Band.

Food available at one of the many Port Warwick restaurants in addition to a variety of food trucks.

Chairs, blankets, coolers welcome.
Personal tents and umbrellas not permitted.



PORTWARWICKEVENTS.COM



PORT WARWICK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Mariners' Museum invites residents of Riverside to join them for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of a brand-new waterfront boardwalk and two scenic overlooks along the James River. The unveiling of these community resources marks the completion of **Martha's Way** at The Mariners' Museum and Park.

This new waterfront area represents something truly meaningful for our community. In Newport News, there are very few untouched waterfront spaces that are publicly accessible, as much of the shoreline is privately owned. Martha's Way creates a place where the community can safely connect with the water, experience the beauty of the James River, and enjoy one of the region's natural treasures.

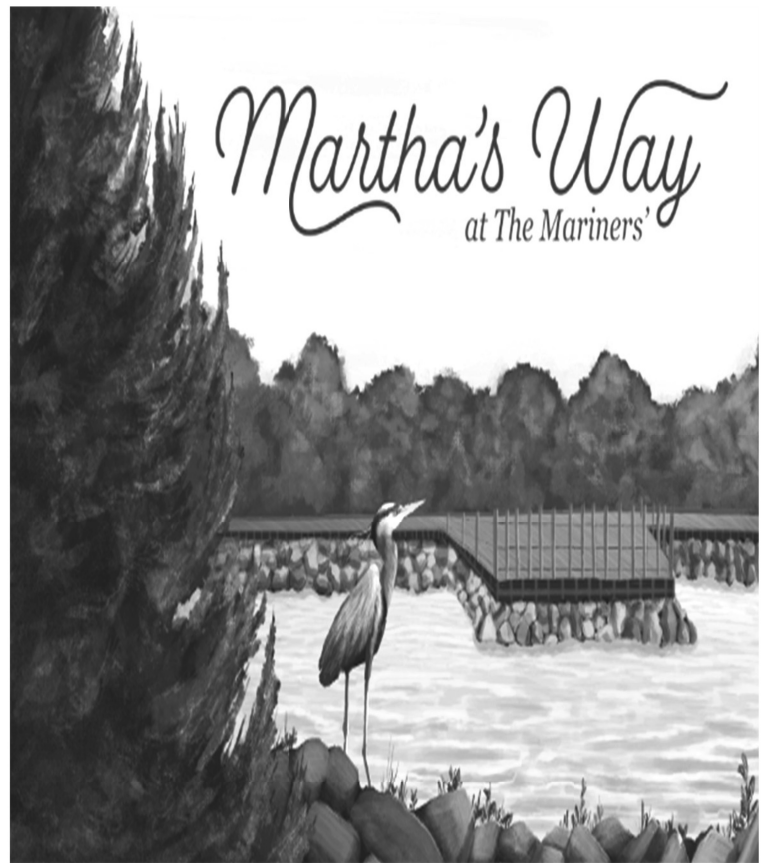
We are deeply grateful to Royden Goodson for his generosity and vision to create a memorable asset for our community.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Details

Location: The Mariners' Museum & Park

Date: Friday, May 29

Time: 10 to 11 a.m.





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2026 Members

\$1,000 and above - 1 Household

\$500 to \$999 - 4 Households

\$250 to \$499 - 8 Households

\$100 to \$249 - 52 Households

2026 Members continued

\$100 to \$249 cont. 51 Households

\$50 to \$99 — 29 Households

\$10 to \$49—24 Households



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Going Native

As my seventh grader summarized a research paper on the topic of social influence in the marketplace and the high percentage of consumers who rely on the preferences of others when making purchases, I thought about all the ways the social default known as “herd mentality” underlies everyday life, particularly in how we approach our domestic landscapes. While numerous evolutionary fields of inquiry reveal positives underlying infra-group social pressures, groupthink can just as easily lend itself to negative outcomes. For generations, we have suppressed horticultural expression in our towns and neighborhoods with a kind of man vs nature approach with the prevalence of extensive lawns and limited tree canopy. This not only limits our health and enjoyment but also portends ecological peril.

The biologist Doug Tallamy, who recently spoke at a CNU Gardening Symposium and who E.O. Wilson calls “one of the most original and persuasive present-day authors on conservation,” assails lawn maintenance and exotic-privileging gardening in his most recent work, *Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*. He proposes a restoration of a “sense of place” through plant and animal communities we steward, not only in nature preserves and national parks but right outside our doorsteps. “Biological corridors” would help connect our home lawns and gardens, schoolyards, parks, and city-owned riparian zones and easements to our fragmented and distant preserved habitats. This “homegrown national park” endeavor would utilize essentially overlooked greenspace to elevate native plants and animal populations, enabling them to “weather normal population fluctuations indefinitely” (62).

As a denizen of our local biome I enthusiastically espouse Tallamy’s embrace of watershed, pollinators, soil health, the food web, and carbon sequestration. Who would argue with the holistic “nature is everywhere” mantra over the “nature is over there in the distance” conventional thinking? However, as a garden designer, I frequently take issue with writers like Tallamy who suggest a compromise exists between ecological function and the aesthetic/emotional appeal of native-forward plantings. One may share his zeal for lawn shrinkage and installing

pocket meadows and still save room for a few exotics whose sentimental appeal or seasonal exuberances have value in themselves. After all, the ecological function of workhorses such as the aster and native sunflower genera will not suddenly be negated if a non-invasive hydrangea or chinese viburnum blushes with a profusion of snowball flowerheads nearby.

Which brings me back to the herd instinct and how we may translate it into a new positive in our domestic green spaces. Why do we desire a front yard with less than 10% of the tree biomass predating our home’s construction? One with inanimate green meatballs shoved up against our foundations and a comically limited palette of Eurasian steppe specimens selected solely for their bloom cycle? Why don’t we provide the required food and homes for our native insects, arthropods, and other invertebrates – the very creatures on which our survival depends – by providing pocket prairies and meadows planted with baptisias, eutrochium, little bluestems, and carex? And we let mosquito fogging companies use pyrethroids-based formulas that decimate the “good bugs,” when we can control larvae mosquitoes in strategically placed buckets dipped with commercially available Bti dunks.

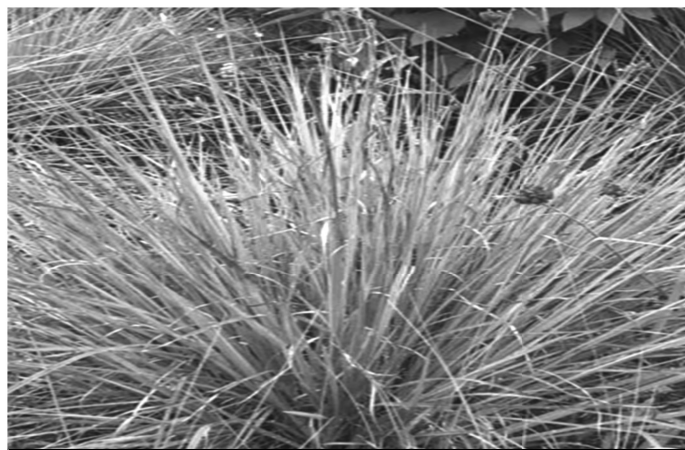
Tallamy reminds us that it doesn’t require professional training to move beyond the stifling conformity of expansive lawns and limited canopy. Anyone can remove invasive species (like English Ivy, buddleia, and privet), install native plants, and perform stormwater conservation. Familiarize yourself with a selection of native forbs (wildflowers) and grasses that can withstand deer munchies and sweltering summers. Tinker with pre-emptive pruning techniques to avoid flopping. If an arborist advises removing an ailing old oak, replace it with three more and some understory natives such as serviceberry and witch hazel. Above all, work with nature rather than against it. In due time, the herd will follow.

Shannon Hays

Neighbor and Landscape Architect



Baptisia or Blue False Indigo



Little Blue Stem



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Faith Formation Groups -11 AM

Pastor Conversations:

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**Choir Thurs 5:30-6:15pm
June&July**

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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