



RIVERSIDE NEWS

Message from the President

1st Quarter 2024

Greetings from the Florida panhandle where a work trip has brought me back to a place I have lived before, which reminds me of how much I appreciate Riverside! Someone I met here told me how much he liked the Noland Trail and Mariners' Museum when he had been stationed in the area and I told him how much we enjoy theater productions at CNU, both professional and student shows. I always find myself talking up the area and our neighborhood specifically; it just feels like home, and I hope you feel the same way.

We put out the signs, sent out the notifications and proxies, updated social media and the website, and again fell a bit short of a quorum for our annual meeting, which was held on Thursday, January 4th. The city engineering staff had two great presentations via Zoom and projected on the big screen provided by our gracious hosts, City Life Church. One presentation was risk mitigation options for the intersection of Moores and Shoe Ln. Shoe Ln is just wide enough that cars can bypass vehicles that are waiting to turn. Unfortunately, limited sightlines increase the risk of collisions to cars and pedestrians. Please see details on page 9. The other project, which you may have noticed by now, is the Lions Bridge rebuild which unfortunately included removing the trees "downstream" of the dam. Old photos show that trees haven't always been there, but it sure seems to be a shame they had to go.

The remainder of the meeting included questions and answers with a CNU rep, a member of the City Manager's staff and reps from Zoning,

Codes and the NN Police. In spite of the low turnout, representatives truly appeared to be interested in the concerns raised, as was reinforced in remarks by special guest, Councilman Cleon Long. With Board member elections not being possible without a quorum, Board members gave brief summaries of the budget, improvements, communications, neighborhood relations and welcoming committee. Sadly, our longest serving board member (by far), Christine Doberneck announced she would not again return to the board after 34 years of service, many of which were in the thankless job as treasurer, and always with an impeccable reputation. Thank you, Christine, for your dedication to the RCCA and the residents of Riverside! Offsetting her loss, we are happy to have a familiar face back on the board. Welcome back, Debi Warren. RCCA has missed you!

Thank you for your generous financial support last year. Membership was down slightly, but donations met our financial needs. No new major capital projects are currently planned for 2024 but our common-land dead tree removal concern is always present and capable of creating significant expense.

Please consider volunteering to serve on the board. The current board can appoint members outside of the normal election process during the Annual Meeting. And remember, you don't have to be on the Board to volunteer to work on one of the committees. If interested, use the form on our website, send a message on the Facebook page or contact a current member. Hope to see you around the neighborhood!

John Scott, RCCA President

RCCA Events

Spring Cleanup

March 16

9 -12 at the Beach

Easter Egg Hunt

March 23 10—11 Beach

Riverside Yard Sale

April 20 8:00 - 1:00

Local Events

Mariners' Museum

Sips and Trips

June 22 6:30

CNU

Graduation

May 11, 9 - 4

Ferguson Center

Jesus Christ Super Star,

March 22

Bobby Black Hat, March 24

Dinosaur World, April 14

Stomp, May 2

The Music of Star Wars,

May 4

Little Women, May 7

Port Warwick

Summer Concert Series

May 29—Aug 28

Wednesdays 6 - 9

Hilton Village

Spring Festival

April 29, 11-5

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In response to your requests, the RCCA community yard sale is moving from a sticky day in July, to a hopefully cooler spring day on **Saturday April 20**. The RCCA will coordinate advertising, but permits must be



purchased by each participant at the Dresden police office. Please let us know if you plan to participate by using the website contact form on **RCCA-newport news.com**. We will add you to the neighborhood map.

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 203 in 2023. 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.



The I FIGHT Like Seth Alliance

"difficult BUT DOABLE"

613 Chapel Street Hampton, VA 23669

(757) 726-7445 IFIGHTLIKESETH.ORG



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Who Are We?

A non-profit that serves our community via awareness about pediatric cancer, empowerment, support, and service. We are committed to forming alliances with our community for the betterment of all.

In May 2020 17-year-old, Seth was diagnosed with stage 4 Renal Medullary Carcinoma. This is a very aggressive and rare kidney cancer, with very poor prognosis. Before gaining his wings Seth fought with tenacity, determined to show cancer who was boss! Seth graduated from Hampton high school while fighting this monster, he earned multiple awards and recognitions. Even having a scholarship named in his honor.

Seth's strength helps us realize and walk in our motto

"difficult BUT DOABLE!"

Neighborhood Watch

Riverside neighborhood's crime stats have gone from near-zero to a significant uptick in recent weeks. In late January, there were two vehicle break-ins on the 300 block of Parkway Drive.

Then in early February, three break-ins occurred around the neighborhood. One attempt, on the 300 block of Mimosa Drive, was thwarted when the homeowner interrupted the intruder. Break-ins February 2nd on the 100 block of Longwood Drive and 200 block of Mistletoe Drive were successful. Both break-ins were through windows.

Police have asked if homeowners could review their door cameras for any vehicles or people engaged in suspicious activities on **Feb.**

2nd between 7:00pm and 10:55pm. If you see anything of interest contact the Central Precinct at 757-591-4978.

A police incident report also mentioned an assault on Museum Drive which borders our neighborhood. In addition,

there was a trespassing violation on Riverwood Circle in the Beverly Hills neighborhood.

As you can see, we are no longer nearly crime free. What can we do?



- Make sure our vehicles are locked and nothing valuable is left or stored inside.
- Check to ensure that every window and door to your house is securely closed and locked.
- Leave exterior lights on at night to deter break-in attempts.
- The police encourage you to call the police non-emergency number (757-247-2500 listed on the back of this newsletter) if you see anything suspicious. Call 911 if you see a crime in progress.

Hopefully, we will have some arrests soon, and in the meantime, additional police patrols have been requested and are underway.

Easter Egg Hunt

On March 23rd, the RCCA will host our annual Easter Egg hunt starting at 10:00 at the beach. Each year, Riverside children attend and quickly recover the eggs carefully hidden by the Easter Bunny (and his helpers). This event is open to all Riverside residents and their guests. There will be a supervised egg hunt for children (age 12 and under), entertainment, and treats. A special area for age 4 and under will be set up. In the case of inclement weather, this event will be moved to the Saturday before Easter, March 30.



If you could help, please contact any board member or leave a comment on our website.

Envelopes and Dues

In the past, with every newsletter, the RCCA has sent out envelopes addressed to our treasurer to facilitate payment of membership dues. The vast majority of these envelopes end up in the trash.

This year, we will try to cut some waste and expense by including an envelope with this issue, but not for the next 3 issues. Hopefully this will not cause too much inconvenience. And remember, you can always use Venmo for a totally paperless transaction. Please note your address on your Venmo payment.



RCCA
@RCCA-NNVA

Finally, if you want to see your name in the next newsletter, make sure you have your payment to Tracy Johnson by May 11. As always, thanks for your support!

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THE MARINERS' *Sips* & TRIPS

Saturday, June 22, 2024 Departure Time: 6:30 p.m.

Embark on an epic adventure to ports around the world!

Set your travel itinerary at The Mariners' and experience incredible destinations for an unforgettable evening. Encounter rarely seen artifacts and discovering fascinating maritime stories.

Enjoy international wine selections and curated food pairings.

This special event is a perfect way to share your maritime connection with friends or a date night with a loved one!

Tickets

\$60 Members | \$70 Guests | \$35 Nondrinker

Sponsorship

All proceeds support the mission of The Mariners' Museum and Park and help preserve the world's rich maritime heritage through the conservation of artifacts, works of art, and archival materials.

For sponsorship information, contact Josi Washington at 757-591-7791 or jwashington@marinersmuseum.org

Improvement Committee Report

Security camera system upgrades are beginning at the beach. Soon the RCCA will install Wi-Fi connected cameras that can be monitored remotely to make sure they are online to record and hopefully discourage criminal activity at the beach. Another upgrade will allow the police, with our permission, to have access to our files for their investigations.

Please be careful when parking at the beach. Split Rail Fence Repairs were needed, yet again, when another fence rail was broken by a non-attentive driver. If possible, get a little exercise by walking or riding a bike to the beach whenever you can.

Our Native spring plantings are starting to stir. As winter comes to a welcome end, we will soon see green shoots emerging from our various native grasses, sedges, wildflowers, and flowering shrubs at the beach and the corner of Central Parkway and Riverside. Then, the never-ending battle begins between the good guys and the bad weeds.

We do plan to add a few more varieties to the mix, but this spring we are focused on maintaining what we have and making sure it has the best chance to survive the challenge of foreign invasive species, while encouraging the much-anticipated native volunteers to thrive. If you would like to help, please contact Mac Collins at 757-871-0356.

Spring Cleanup

The RCCA is organizing a cleanup effort on Saturday, March 16th from 9:00-12:00. The beach property and other areas of Riverside can always benefit from our attention, especially in the spring. Volunteers are needed to help clear brush and leaves, weed plant beds and remove trash. Please meet at the beach property at 9:00 and bring gloves and garden tools (rake, loppers, etc.). As much time as you can spare is welcome. The efforts should take a few hours and the RCCA will provide lunch for the volunteers at noon.

Our beach plant beds are in need of some TLC. Several residents have volunteered to help over the years and do their part to landscape and maintain medians and plant/maintain beds at the beach. Riverside is a great neighborhood, but we need your help to make it even better!



Residents, please volunteer your time and skills for the improvement efforts to keep the neighborhood beautiful. If you know of any other areas that need attention or would like to adopt an area and maintain it for the benefit of the community, please contact the Improvements Committee chair, Mac Collins, or a member of the board (contact information is on the back of the RCCA newsletters).



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ
ABOUT OUR MISSION
TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY.





Spring has sprung in Riverside.

2023 RCCA Finances

	2022	2023
Revenue	Actual	Actual
Advertising	4,225	6,823
Dues/Donations	20,670	17,451
Total Revenue	\$ 24,895	\$ 24,274
Expense		
Beach upkeep	4,123	475
Beach projects	2,762	4,171
Common Area Work	374	5,400
Easter Egg hunt	83	88
Family Cookout	1,186	1,456
Wine & Cheese	785	662
Riverside Day	3,443	3,395
Utilities	3,134	4,013
D & O Insurance	812	812
Social Media	174	171
Newsletter	3,903	4,038
Welcome Program	1,405	386
Office Expenses/Taxes	263	249
National Night Out	115	155
TOTAL Expense	\$ 22,561	\$ 25,471
Cont to General Fund	\$ 2,334	\$ (1,197)


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Lions Bridge Dam Improvements

The project to replace the Lions Bridge dam has finally reached the construction phase. Ten years ago, the State of Virginia Dam Safety division determined that overtopping, bank erosion, difficult spillway maintenance and down dam trees and vegetation had created safety issues. When a dam fails, we tend to think of it being a sudden event, when in fact, conditions leading to failure go undetected for years. As much as we loved our beautiful trees, their growth along our eroding shoreline was a danger, since roots can cause pockets in the soil which threaten dam integrity.

The current phase of construction has Corman Kokosing Construction repairing the spillway, installing matting on the downside of the dam covered with 8 inches of soil and topsoil, reseeding, and installing an Osprey pole. Along the shoreline, native wetland herbaceous vegetation will be planted. Riprap will only be visible in the vicinity of the outfall culverts.

The next phase requires total closure of automobile bridge traffic from **May 28th to August 3rd**. Pedestrian traffic over the bridge will be available throughout the project, but there will be no parking allowed in the lots at either end of the dam during this phase of the project. The Martha's Way project will resume after the Lions Bridge project concludes in 2025.



20 years of erosion can be seen at the foot of Lions Bridge Dam.



Chuck Worley
President



Chase Worley
Vice President
Riverside Resident

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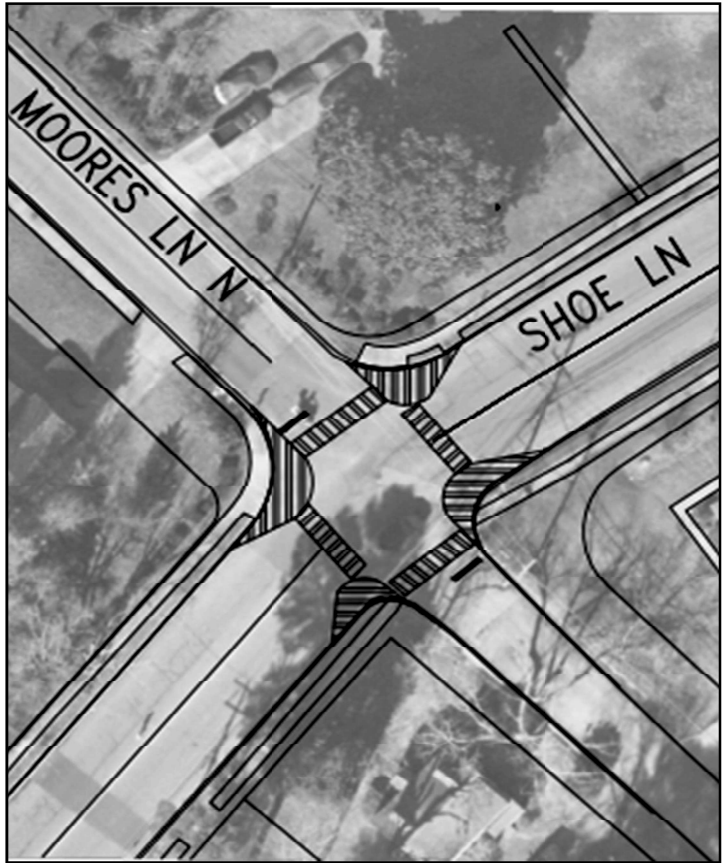
Intersection of Moores and Shoe Lane

After Riverside residents complained about safety issues at the intersection of Moores and Shoe, the city initiated a study to gather data. They recorded traffic flow of roughly 5,000 vehicles a day using Shoe lane and 2,000 per day use Moores Lane North. Six accidents have occurred there in the last 5 years and a large amount of pedestrian traffic was noted.

Options to make traffic safer include “bump-out” striping, creating left turn lanes in both directions on Shoe lane, or a mini-roundabout, which would not require taking homeowners property.

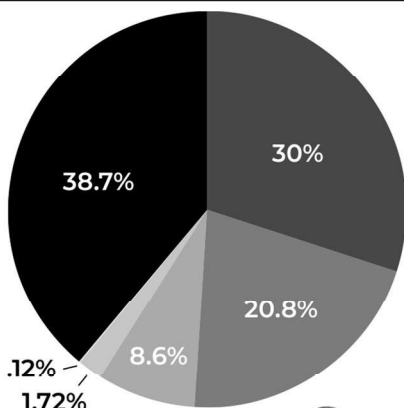
After consideration, it was decided to try the bump-out option (illustrated here) and see if that solves the issue. This is the least expensive option, and can be executed “in house” with the rest of the City’s striping that will begin this spring. It will also quickly add a much-needed pedestrian crossing. The downside of this option would be because it is only paint, drivers could still go around turning traffic.

Public Works has plans to resurface Shoe from Avenue of the Arts to Country Club in FY 2025, which will give time to see if the bump-outs are solving the problem. If it is found that safety issues still remain, they will move toward a mini roundabout solution.



Americans Sitting on Tremendous Equity

68.7% Have Paid off Their Mortgage or Have at Least 50% Equity



- Owns Home Free and Clear
- Mortgaged Homes with 50% Equity or Greater
- Mortgaged Homes with 30-50% Equity
- Mortgaged Homes with 10-30% Equity
- Mortgaged Homes with 0-9% Equity
- Mortgaged Homes in Negative Equity

Thinking of a move this spring?

This record high equity creates an opportunity for sellers to trade up, and use their additional cash to either put down a larger down payment to offset interest rates, or to pay off other consumer debt that is carrying a higher interest rate. Either way, overall monthly expenses can actually drop, despite the fact that mortgage rates will be higher on the new house. That additional inventory will make ALL the difference, and should create a robust spring market.

Curious about equity to sell or rent?

Call me for a complimentary analysis!
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This year, at Cupcake Wars, our office raised **\$11,000** for CHKD!

Overall, the company raised **\$25,000** for local charities!

Thank you for your support!



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DEBI Warren

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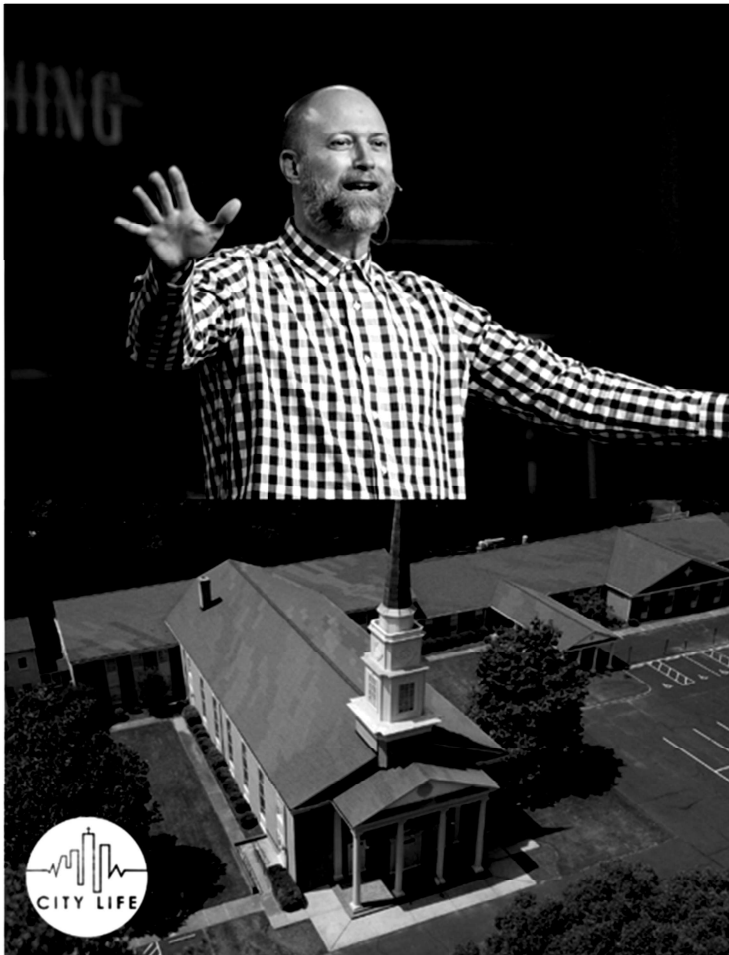
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\$500 and above - 5 Households

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\$50 to \$99 - 63 Households



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\$50 to \$99 - Continued

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2024 Members Dues thru Feb 24

\$500 and above 2 members

\$250 to \$499 5 members

\$100 to \$249 12 members

\$50 to \$99 15 members

\$10 to \$49 14 members



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Sunday Worship- 10AM (live or  LIVE)
Sunday Faith Formation groups- 11AM

Mondays

Scouts— Troop 27

Thursdays

4:00-5:30pm Pastor Pop-in hrs

4:30-5:30pm Choir rehearsal

Monthly

- Ladies Day Out
- Women's group
- Men's Breakfasts
- Youth Outings

Connect, Serve, & Grow with Grace

3/29 Good Friday Service 6:30pm

3/31 Easter Sunday Worship and Free Egg Hunt

3/31-5/12 *Because He Lives* worship series

*What impacts should Jesus' resurrection have on today's world?
Today's church?*

4/14 Scout Sunday with Troop 27

5/18 Celebrate the Wind Kite Fest

June *The Faith We Sing* worship series

Are messages sung in classic hymns still relevant to today's faith?

6/16 Graduate Sunday

July *Summer Stories* worship series

*Four lives powerfully transformed by Jesus in the Bible and how
their stories connect with modern people with similar experiences.*

7/14 Tball Sunday

With GUMC Rockhounds

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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)	Phil Tofts	25 Sir Francis Wyatt Place	(757) 651-3407
Board Member (1 year)	Tara Helmick	7 Sir Francis Wyatt Place	(757) 618-0540
Board Member (1 year)	Liz Fitzpatrick	Mistletoe Drive	(626) 478-6260

Community Contact Information

RCCA	Contact Information	
RCCA Board	RCCA-newportnews.com	General questions, comments
Neighborhood Watch	riversideNNneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com	Kevin Hoffman
Newsletter		Sue Peters, Editor
RCCA Email Information/Updates		Carl Brakman maintains email notification list
Neighborhood Events Committee		Open
Neighborhood Improvements		Mac Collins
Neighborhood Communications		Sue Peters
Welcome Committee		Phil Tofts
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