

RIVERSIDE NEWS

Message from the President

Greetings to all dwellers of lushly green Riverside. I trust you are ready for summer and all that goes with it - cook outs, graduations, weddings and outdoor sports and recreation! If able, getting out and active will help us forget about...well, all that stuff we'd like to forget.

Part of the RCCA annual routine is to draft a budget, debate it and have a vote. We try to identify any big-ticket items prior to the February budget meeting. This year we didn't have anything huge, but a few bigger than average items. One was the removal of a very large, very dead tree on land that isn't exactly ours yet but in the opinion of the city attorney, should be. Feel free to contact me for details on that topic if it interests you. The other item was the repair or replacement of the wooden boards that serve as the final top part of the boundary between the sandy beach and Wolf's Creek. While assessing options to present to the board, Improvements Chair Mac Collins identified a talented and industrious neighbor with experience in constructing rip-rap style walling at a great self-help price. It was approved in the budget and a truckload of rock was delivered. However, work was delayed when a concerned neighbor contacted the city's 311 line and said we were "dumping rocks in the river." We ceased progress until a big meeting at the river with several representatives from the city. The bottom line was that our plan was recently approved but we had to hire an engineer to more-or-less prove to the city that we didn't need a plan. THAT amount was not in the budget!

Thanks to all the Egg grubbers who braved the howling wind for the Easter Egg Hunt. It was a tough decision not to postpone but since the Bunny had scheduled a recovery vacation in the Caribbean for the next week, we decided to go for it! Special thanks to assistants to the Bunny (eggs stuffers and hidiers, Liz Fitzpatrick, Tara Helmick and Scott Cone). Apparently, the Bunny came dangerously close to somehow being immersed in the creek...if only we

knew his identity to ask him about it.

Also, thanks to the folks who came out for the annual clean-up day. We accomplished a lot before the rain came. It was pleasing to see CNU students Nate and Chris who gave up a Saturday morning to help make their neighborhood better.

The Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday the 17th of June at 5pm. DJ Crain will be spinning up the tunes. Food will be standard cook-out fare of hamburger and hot dogs (vegan options too). If you stay until the last adult beverage is consumed, you have to help clean up. Look for the Riverside Event signs, our website, and social media for updates.

The interest in Venmo for paying annual membership dues seems to have waned a bit after the novelty of it last year but we hope the convenience is worth the small fee that we absorb for each transaction. But if all those young families want a teaching moment to show their kids what a check is, we still take those too.

We have had four different groups deliver the last 5 issues of the newsletter. We are trying different techniques for how it gets to your door, making it more efficient for the delivery teams so that we compensate them fairly. We have a few delivery folks lined up for now but please let us know if your club, team, or organization would like to distribute an upcoming newsletter. We remain committed to getting a hard copy to every house in the neighborhood, whether a member or not.

Finally, once again it is graduation season and I hope all of you can look back with pride for a godchild, child, grandchild, or friend that you were able to love, nurture, advise or support on their way to that milestone (and congrats to Sarah Scott for her MPP from GW!).

John Scott, RCCA President

2nd Quarter 2023

Family Picnic
June 17 5 - 8 at Beach

Garage Sale
July 8

National Night Out
Aug 1st 6 - 7:30 at Beach

Local Summer Fun

Mariners' Museum
Sips and Trips
Saturday, June 24 6:30

Lionsbridge FC Soccer
Todd Stadium 7:00
6/7, 6/17, 6/24, 6/30, 7/3, 7/8
7/15

Port Warwick Concerts
Wednesdays, 6-9 June-Aug

Ferguson Center
Zach Williams 7/26 7:30

Inside This Issue

About Our Community	2
Beach Wall Update	3
Family Picnic	3
Beach Planting Update	5
Golf Carts	5
Sips and Trips	6
New Board Member	6
Membership	8,10
Neighborhood Watch	10
Community Garage Sale	10
Contact Information	12

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 102 thru May 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 information found on the back of the newsletter.



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The Great Wall of Wolf's Run

Our design has been approved by the appropriate authorities and construction is well underway on upgrading the wall that runs along Wolf's Run down through the beach. That is why you see a big pile of beautiful granite rocks near the shed and porta potty.

The wall prevents erosion of the creek and replaces the aging wooden structure put in place by the RCCA's Wolf Elber decades ago. It was designed to collect sand, keeping it from blowing into, and possibly clogging the creek that drains stormwater runoff from much of the neighborhood. The new wall is considered as maintenance for the city's storm water easement running through RCCA's Riverside Drive property.

The vision and design for this beautiful permanent improvement to our community beach property is based on the work of RCCA member Kevin Jordan as performed on his own property. Kevin is now our hands-on architect and builder with the support of other volunteers and RCCA funding for the required materials.

Please be patient with the progress of the project since it must fit into tight personal schedules and cooperative weather. Come on down to the beach and see the beautiful progress so far. There is plenty of work left to do so volunteers are always welcome.

Mac Collins

Family Picnic

Come celebrate the start of summer and enjoy our beautiful beach with fun for the whole family at RCCA's Family Picnic, June 17th from 5:00—8:00 at the beach.

We'll have DJ John Crain for music, with games and a few more surprises to keep the whole family happy. RCCA will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, chips, and dessert. As are all RCCA's events, this is a free event for Riverside residents, but donations are always welcome. Extra parking will be available street side on Central Parkway. This is a weather dependent event so check out our social media pages in the case of inclement weather. Please contact any board member if you are able to help. Hope to see you there!



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Beach Native Planting Update

Spring has sprung! Our native plantings and ongoing weeding program are showing good results. The Golden Ragwort's yellow flowers and Lynnhaven Carpet's tiny pinkish daisy-like flowers have already bloomed and sent their seeds into the wind.

Now the flowering shrubs (Arrow Wood Viburnum, Hummingbird Clethra and Henry's Garnet) are flowering and feeding their insect pollinators. The Blue Flag Iris are in full bloom now including the ones we planted in "the swamp" behind the city pump station on Central Parkway. Soon the Purple Coneflowers along the front fence and the golden Coreopsis just inside the fence will have their turn to add to the beauty.

Before the next newsletter, a wide variety of our other bushes and wildflowers will have bloomed and supported our local birds and insects. These include Lizard Tail, Turtle Heads, Swamp Milkweed, Swamp Sunflowers and Crimsoneyed Rosemallow.

Take a walk to the beach and let mother nature offer a reprieve from the day-to-day cares and pressures of modern-day life.



Blue Flag Iris

Golf Carts

We have been contacted by several neighbors concerning the growing number of golf carts in Riverside. There are basically two ways you can legally operate a golf cart in Newport News.

Section 26-232 (B)(1) of the Newport News Code of Ordinances allows travel of golf carts on public streets from your home to a golf course, if the distance is not more than a half mile. You can also operate a golf cart on a small number of designated streets in the city, none of which are within our neighborhood (Section 26-234).



If a golf cart qualifies to be on the road, Section 236-232 (A)(2) thru (5) lists additional requirements for operation. The cart operator must hold a valid driver's license, the cart must have a slow-moving vehicle emblem, lights if driven at night, and carry \$300,000 of insurance. We encourage all vehicle operators to drive safely and legally. A surprising 15,000 people are injured annually in golf carts, 6,500 of which are kids and teenagers. Hopefully, no one from Riverside will ever be part of that statistic.

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Meet Your RCCA Board Members

Hello Riverside Community!

What a wonderful area of Newport News, we have chosen to live in! My name is Phil Tofts, and I am one of the newest members of our wonderful non-profit board of directors. I volunteered to become involved in our community after I received a visit from Mrs. Debi Warren.

Debi brought my family a "Welcoming Basket," something I have never experienced before. Debi came up with this idea for our community, which inspired me to get involved. When she needed to step back from her duties, she was determined to continue making our community the best that Newport News has to offer. So that's when I stepped in! I am now the board member responsible for continuing this tradition that Debi began.

I have a beautiful wife and daughter and we reside at 25 Sir Francis Wyatt Place. I work for the government as a civil servant for N.A.S.A. Langley Research Center Virginia and my wife works for the special needs department for the Virginia Newport News School System.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with any questions or concerns, but especially if you notice a new resident moving into the neighborhood. I'll make sure to include them in our special neighborhood welcome. Also, if you have any interest in becoming involved in our wonderful neighborhood, please reach out!

May you and your family be blessed with eternal happiness residing in the best area in the 757!

Sincerely,

Phil Tofts

Riverside Welcoming Committee Board of Directors



THE MARINERS' *Sips* & TRIPS

Saturday, June 24, 2023

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 while 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

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 more information, contact Luisa A. Vázquez-López at (757) 591-7705 or lvazquez@MarinersMuseum.org.

We are NOT moving! We LOVE Riverside!

It's a Wonderful Life!



Jon and I moved to Riverside in April 2017. He is a native to this area in Newport News. I come from an Air Force military family who has been stationed all over the world.

My husband and I got married in 2003. Our fur babies complete our family. We love the Noland Trail and have lived within walking distance of it since 2004.

We enjoy the outdoors and traveling in the US and abroad.



I started the Welcome Committee in 2017. We have delivered hundreds of *It's a Wonderful Life* themed Welcome Baskets to our neighbors in the last 6 years.

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Hall of Fame



DEBI *Warren*

757-291-DEBI (3324)

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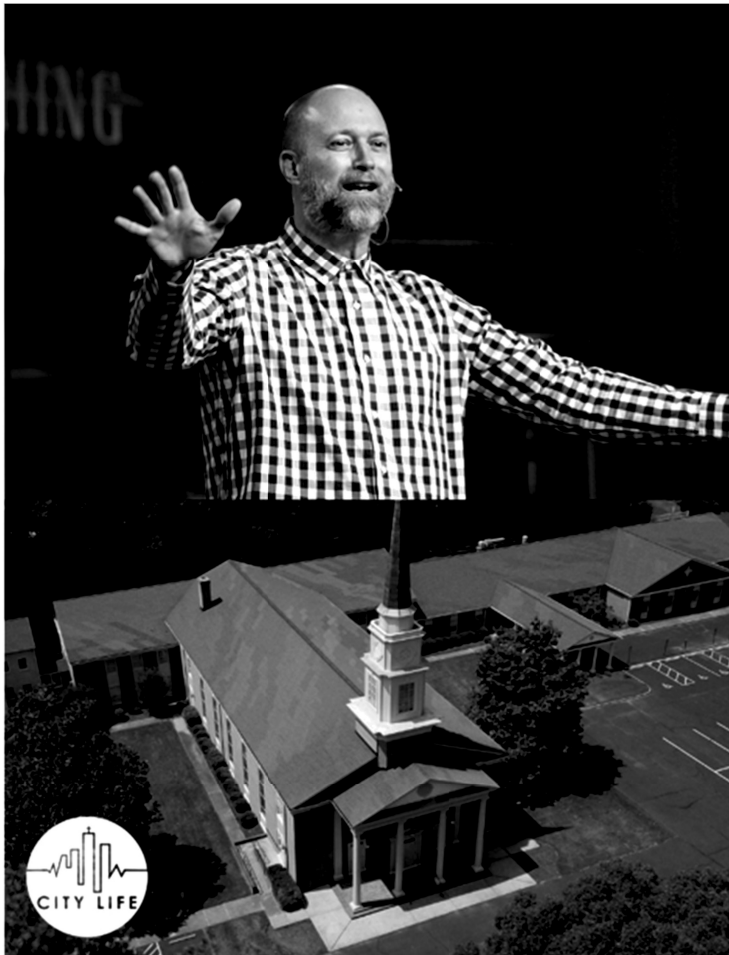
2023 Members

\$500 and above - 4 Households

\$250 to \$499 - 8 Households

\$100 to \$249 - 35 Households

\$50 to \$99 - 32 Households



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311 SELDEN RD.



Dues \$10 to \$49— 32 Households

Neighborhood Watch

While our neighborhood has been remarkably crime-free for a long time, there have been recent reports of break-ins/burglaries. Hopefully they are isolated incidents, but it is always a good idea to make sure your houses and vehicles are locked with valuables out of sight.

Sharing information on the Residents of Riverside Facebook page can be a good tool, but don't hesitate to call 911 or the police non-emergency number (757-247-2500) with issues that require a "lesser" police response. Also, remember to use the City's 311 system to request City services or report City-related issues online, by phone,

or e-mail.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer. This year it will be held on Tuesday, August 1st at the beach. Bring your questions for officers representing our precinct and grab a bite to eat. Look for information on Nextdoor and our Facebook page as we get closer to the event.

Kevin Hoffman

Community Yard Sale

The RCCA is having a community yard sale on Saturday July 8th. This is the second Saturday in July and will be held rain or shine. Our goal is to make this a standing annual date to help with planning and promotion.

If you have a few things you are not using and would like to clear out the clutter, please join us for the sale. The RCCA will coordinate advertising; signs will be posted by residents for their streets. Permits must be purchased by each participant at the Dresden police office.



Mom and Dad Canadian goose have chosen Riverside to raise their 3 goslings.



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CONNECT & SERVE- UPCOMING

5/28 Confirmation Sunday/ Pentecost Sunday

6/11 Graduation Sunday

6/17 Welcome to the Big Top, Supporting those impacted by pediatric cancer. www.ifightheliosedh.org

Choir Rehearsal is held Thursday at 4:30 PM

Sunday school has resumed following morning service.

Adult, youth and Children's classes

Adam Hamilton - "Half Truths"

PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to graceumcn209@gmail.com

Food collection Supports THRIVE, www.thrivepeninsula.org/

Donate non-expired food that would be useful in providing a nourishing meal to children and adults. The current food needs for THRIVE include canned vegetables, jelly, instant pudding mix, peanut butter, rice, cereal, and crackers.

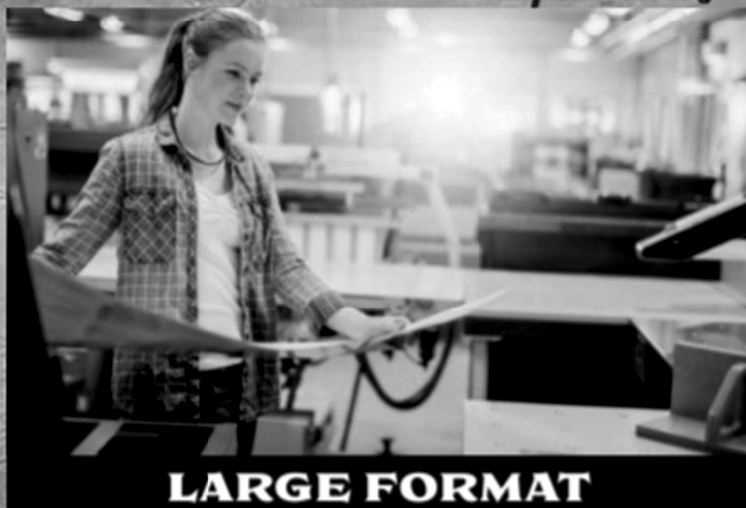


Sunday Worship @10 AM

In-person & Masks are optional at this time. Covid Level is currently LOW.



Details in weekly Enewsletter & Facebook page. Scan this QR code To visit our Facebook page. Contact the church office with any questions.



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RCCA Board Contact Information (Years as Board Member)

President (8 years)	John Scott	21 Cale Circle	(757) 599-4787
Vice President (5 years)	Scott Cone	604 Riverside Drive	(646) 853-0261.
Secretary (7 years)	Kevin Hoffman	327 Parkway Drive	(757) 596-0553
Treasurer (8 years)	Mac Collins	121 Tipton Road	(757) 871-0356
Board Member (31 years)	Christine Doberneck	324 Central Parkway	(757) 596-5227
Board Member (14 years)	Tracy Johnson	322 Central Parkway	(757) 303-1100
Board Member (1 years)	Wolfgang Leesch	504 Riverside Drive	(646) 512-0448
Board Member (7 years)	Sue Peters	115 Dogwood Drive	(757) 867-7520
Board Member (0 years)	Phil Tofts	25 Sir Francis Wyatt Place	(757) 651-3407
Board Member (0 years)	Tara Helmick	7 Sir Francis Wyatt Place	(757) 618-0540
Board Member (0 years)	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