

Thalia Civic League Newsletter

Volume 30 Issue 4

<https://thalianeighbors.com>

December 2022

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

Thalia Residents: *Informed - Inclusive - Involved*

WE WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR TRANSITION TO ALL-DIGITAL COMMUNICATION - please visit our web site <https://thalianeighbors.com> for news, updates and more!

Goodbye, farewell, amen. (Courtesy: MASH)

This will be my last newsletter as President of the civic league. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President a second time (the first was in the 90's). During the past few years, we have certainly seen our share of excitement: COVID, elections, dissent in every corner, local development issues, climate and weather changes, war, runaway inflation, you name it. As I step away from the President's job, I walk next into the treasurer's job, so you are not rid of me yet!

Rick Boyles is your incoming President. Most of you got to know him – or of him - in association with the “Willis” fight. He helped us learn to pay closer attention to those little orange signs. It is not a secret that the City of Virginia Beach is now pushing and will continue to push “revitalization”. Rick will sit at the helm of the Thalia Civic League with a focused and watchful eye on the City's “transformation plan” (my words). As we have learned, awareness and action are the two primary tools needed to ensure that “thoughtful” development approaches are taken by the city planners and management. Rick will ensure we continue to have a voice and ongoing dialogue.

- Mike Dougherty

Hello from your incoming President

I trust your holidays have been merry and that all are well. I decided I am not going to write anything in this space, but rather am soliciting your input/opinion/suggestion regarding the focus and direction of the Civic League for the next two years. Give me your thoughts below and send this page back to me in an email to rick.boyles@computernetworksinc.com. Thank you, and Happy New Year! - *Rick Boyles*

Rick, here is my input:

DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

Our last meeting of the year was December 19, 2022

It was a celebratory meeting featuring the introduction of the '23 - '24 Thalia Civic League management team (Officers and Board Members), awarding the winners of the holiday home decorating contest, and short presentations by the two candidates for the Virginia Senate 7th District election on January 10, 2023, followed by light refreshments and conversation. We had a good crowd and hope you will take the opportunity to join us next month! (January 16, 2023)

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One (or) more last word(s)

Always walk facing street traffic. Wear light colored or reflective clothes, even in daytime. Be alert.

Don't speed in the neighborhood. 25 miles an hour will get you in, around and out of the neighborhood just fine. At 25 MPH, you are travelling 36 feet per second. At 35, it is 50 feet per second. Drive as though your kids are playing in the street - be prepared.

Do "your bit" and clean up the street in front of your house. All those leaves and pine needles will end up either clogging the storm drains or, worse, blocking the flow of water AND clogging the drain. Cleaning takes very little time to do and – big picture - may ultimately save money on storm water processing. (You can put the debris in your black trash can and save a plastic bag, as well.)

Support local businesses as best you can. They are the backbone of our community.

Know your neighbors. The "standard" for a viable neighborhood watch "network" is (at MINIMUM) knowing your neighbors to the immediate left and right of your house, and the three houses across from and behind you.

Purchase wisely. Know what you are buying, and let your fingers do the walking. If you buy something in-person (try it, you'll like it!), you might even see if you can get a "local" or other discount. If you don't ask, you won't know. Caveat emptor – just read some of the stories on NextDoor – and remember the Golden Rule: if it seems to be too good to be true, it usually is. This is especially applicable to phone, computer or in-person solicitation. ALWAYS validate the source! If you need help sorting things out, ask a friend or neighbor versus relying solely on media-based (read: media-biased) recommendations.

Be healthy, stay healthy and "get your steps in" – even if it is cold, you can walk in a mall or other indoor venue. Once you begin a sedentary lifestyle, it is difficult to overcome, and ultimately leads to a degradation in your general health. Another thing – this advice applies to all ages.

Help others. This is not holiday-specific advice. People need help 24/7/365. Volunteer – there are plenty of opportunities. Try to brighten someone's life – it will brighten yours as well.

Be grateful for the best things you have in life – family and friends. These matter much more than "things". If you have plenty of "things", share with those who do not! When cleaning out your former "treasures", remember the adage: one person's trash is another's treasure.

Some last thoughts

Remember when good sense used to be common?

Or when you could buy a (full) half-gallon of ice cream?

You want to see social distancing? Loan somebody some money!

"The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that it is difficult to determine whether they are genuine."

- Abraham Lincoln