

September 2023

Volume 31, Issue 7

THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER WE ARE: INFORMED, INCLUSIVE, INVOLVED

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.
WWW.THALIANEIGHBORS.COM

QUICK VIEW—UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, September 18 – Thalia Civic League September Membership Meeting, New Life Church 7:00 PM Guest Speaker To Be Determined

Wednesday, September 20 - Thalia Garden Club Meeting 10:00 AM Location TBD

Monday, October 16 – Thalia Civic League October Membership Meeting, New Life Church 7:00 PM

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of you who have joined and participated in the Thalia Civic League so far in 2023. We truly appreciate your support in our efforts to make the neighborhood a better place in which to live. We will begin our Membership Drive for 2024 soon and hope that we can count on your support by renewing your membership, or becoming a member if you are not already.

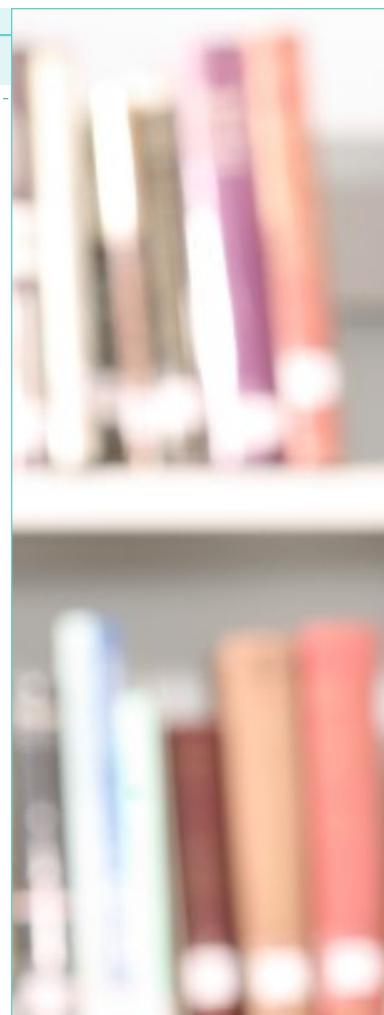
Our goal for the balance of 2023 is to have a Fall cookout/social event for our neighbors to get to know each other. Stay tuned for more as that idea progresses. While I know it is still Summer, but since we are only doing this printed newsletter every quarter, I wanted to remind you that we will be having our Christmas House Decorating contest again this year. We have a Donor who has donated \$500 for the first prize, so start your planning now!

THALIA ELEMENTARY NEWS

Thalia Elementary School Becomes a Title 1 School

Thalia Elementary School became a Title 1 School with the start of classes this year. The school met participation criteria this year based on its share of low-income families. Title 1 is a federally funded program whose purpose is to ensure that all children have a fair, equitable and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and to raise achievement for low-income and otherwise disadvantaged children. Initiatives supported by Title 1 include increased qualifications for all staff members, increased staffing allocations to reduce class sizes, family engagement events to promote school to home learning connections, and additional resources for student learning among many others.

You are invited to visit the school on Thursday, September 21st from 5:30-6:30 for our annual Title 1 information session. A formal presentation will be shared followed by an opportunity to ask questions and participate in a “Community Conversation” about the impact of Title 1 to the Thalia community.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Join the Civic League
- Attend the monthly meetings
- Support our Guest Speakers
- Get off the couch and get involved
- Tell your elected representatives how you feel



YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES GOOD TO KNOW AND COMMONLY REQUESTED

Elected Officials Serving Thalia

Virginia Beach City Council
District 8
Chris Taylor
chtaylor@vb.gov
757-840-5859

Virginia Senate
7th District
Aaron Rouse
district07@senate.virginia.gov
804-698-7507

Virginia House of Delegates
83rd District
Anne Farrell Tata
delaftata@house.virginia.gov
757-213-5193

US House of Representatives
2nd District
<https://kiggans.house.gov/contact>
Representative Jen Kiggans
(757) 364-7650

“The only thing about the Internet is that you can’t always believe what you read.” - Abraham Lincoln

PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime Reports

The last information we received from MPO David Shoenbach, our Virginia Beach Police Community Liaison Officer, was that too many people are leaving their cars unlocked, with guns and key fobs in the car. If you leave your car unlocked and the key fob is in the car, the car gets stolen. If your gun is in the car, it gets stolen and used in some other crime. If you leave the key fob to your 2nd car in the 1st car, they steal both cars! Lock those cars up!

Stay Alert!

We have many walkers, dog walkers, strollers, joggers, and cyclists on our streets and it’s important to remain alert when we are driving. And pedestrians can do their part to stay safe. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, if there are no sidewalks on the road, pedestrians should walk facing oncoming traffic, on the same side of the road as the oncoming traffic. When bicycling, you should ride in the same direction as automobile traffic.

CONTACT THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE OFFICERS/BOARD

President, Rick Boyles - (757) 589-4893 rick.boyles@computernetworksinc.com

Vice President, Phil Hines - (757) 897-3538 philliphines@gmail.com

Secretary, Rose Buseti - (757) 306-8901 rosebusetti@hotmail.com

Treasurer, Mike Dougherty - (757) 498-2857 tclmikedougherty@gmail.com

Board Member, Neighborhood Watch, Tom Metcalf - (757) - 635-5982 temetcalf@cox.net

Board Member, Newsletter, Hobie Ritzel - (757) 403-1769, hobie.ritzel@gmail.com

Board Member - VACANT (Your name here?) We are looking for volunteers!!!!

HELP WANTED!

Your Civic League is always looking for “new faces” to help us in our role as a community resource. All this requires is as much — or as little — of your time as you can spare. As examples, this could include assisting in the development of information to be presented in this Newsletter series or volunteering to coordinate social or special meeting events.

It takes all kinds to make a community — so feel free to pitch in and help us continue to be one of the best!

WHEN YOU NEED TO CONTACT CITY COUNCIL

Email them at citycouncil@vb.gov

NEW CITY WEBSITE: <https://virginiabeach.gov>

Featured Local Businesses



OF VIRGINIA BEACH

4992 Euclid Road, Suite 1
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
866-783-5195

Business to Business
Cybersecurity
Regulatory Compliance
Computer and Network Support

www.computernetworksinc.com



At Loehman's Plaza
4000 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
(757) 498-9770

<https://reginellas.com/>

Zeros Subs-Birchwood



3760 Virginia Beach Blvd
757-463-9114

<https://zerosbirchwoodvb.deliverlocal.co/>



Clean Polish Seal Repair Restore

- Tired of dull marble floors or countertops?
- Does your grout never seem to get clean?
- Is it time to polish and seal those countertops?

WE WORK STONE AND GROUT MIRACLES
Call 757-403-1769 for a free estimate!

<https://zerosbirchwoodvb.deliverlocal.co/>



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- Licensed Residential Appraiser
- Qualified Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) First-Time Home Buyer Trainer
- Member of Tidewater Real Estate Investors Group (TRIG)
- Old Dominion University Graduate, Communications



<https://www.vabeachhomeappraisals.com/>

Tijuana Flats Tex-Mex

4224 Virginia Beach Blvd. Ste. 106
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452



<https://www.tijuanafats.com/>

Featured Local Businesses



4312 Virginia Beach Blvd.
757-340-6584

<https://www.gusandgeorges.com/>



Lolly's Creamery Ice Cream Shop

4000 Virginia Beach Blvd
757-330-1490

<https://lollyscreamery.com/>

Dolmat Chiropractic Clinic

Chiropractic Care/ Massage Therapy
757-498-0098



<https://www.dolmatchiropractic.com/>



Loehmann's Plaza Shopping Center
4300 Virginia Beach Blvd.

<https://www.hairofthedogva.com/>

Discount Tire



4300 Virginia Beach Blvd.
757-216-0052

<https://www.discounttire.com/store/va/virginia-beach/s/2207>

Mission BBQ



116 South Independence Blvd
757-490-9050

<https://mission-bbq.com/>

Bay Beach Veterinary Hospital

4340 Virginia Beach Blvd.
757-340-3913
Kimberly Key, DVM



Anchor Allie's Bistro

357 Independence Blvd.
757-309-4556



<https://independence.anchorallies.com/>

CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Time to start thinking about renewing your 2024 Civic League membership! If you are not a member, then join the Thalia Civic League and make a difference!

Household Dues: \$20 per year – January -December of each year.

Member Names: _____

Street Address: _____

Email address (1): _____

Email address (2): _____

Phone Number 1: _____ Phone Number 2: _____

I want to receive e-mails related to Thalia Civic League activities and initiatives. Your personal information will never be shared.

I am interested in being a member of the Thalia Neighborhood Watch Program.

I am available to help the Civic League as a volunteer.

Opinions, Suggestions and comments? _____

Your application is confidential and your information will not be shared.

Thank you for your support your suburban Virginia Beach neighborhood!

Applications and dues can be sent to:

Thalia Civic League, Inc. c/o Mike Dougherty, Treasurer
631 Lynn Shores Drive (drop it off in the milk box on the porch)
757-498-2857 (leave a message)

A History of Collins Square

by Deni Norred

Today's Collins Square Shopping Center on Virginia Beach Boulevard has a history that begins in 1933 with a couple from Jersey City, New Jersey. At that time, John Joseph Cibulka (1899-1963) and his wife, Pauline "Paula" Gluszkowski (1912-2004) purchased two acres of land on Virginia Beach Boulevard at Thalia, Princess Anne County. They bought the land from Benjamin Dey White for the amount of nine hundred dollars. John later Americanized his last name, which was changed to Collins. John and Paula Collins visited their summer home on this land for several years. Eventually, not having fared well up north during the depression, they packed up and moved to their summer home in Thalia.

Joining Paula soon after were her sister, Eleanore, and their mother, Julianna. Eleanore married Rodney Bailey Mills, a local boy from the Little Neck area. They had four children: Rodney Jr., Barbara, Bruce, and William ("Billy"). The Mills family lived in a house on the land where Kettler now sits. "Julia" lived in the two-story wood house (they referred to it as "the big house") which is still situated at 4129 Virginia Beach Boulevard next to Kettler. For Julia's livelihood, she leased out its eight bedrooms to boarders.

After Rodney Mills deserted his family, Paula and John became surrogate parents to the Mills family. They put their nephew, Bruce Mills, through college to obtain his law degree. Thomas R. Kucharski, a cousin to Paula and Eleanore, moved to the area in the 1940s. He also set up his home on the land now occupied by Kettler, next to the Mills' residence. "Tommy Kay" went on to serve as Thalia Volunteer Fire Department's first fire chief.

For their livelihood, John and Paula Collins built tourist cabins around their summer home. They rented these out as Cabins-in-the-Pines in recognition of the abundance of the prolific pine trees on their land. They were quite active in the civic as well as political affairs of their community. Paula served as General Registrar for the Kempsville district, which then included Thalia. Registrars were in charge of residents registering, voting, and paying poll taxes. John Collins served as the first deputy sheriff for Princess Anne County. Among other community activities, they were responsible for

the establishment of the all-volunteer Thalia Fire Department and the installation of city sewage and city water to the Thalia area.

During the war, the influx of military personnel who manned Camp Ashby, the military prisoner of war camp across the boulevard from the Collins business, increased clientele and the success of their commercial enterprises. In 1949 after the war, John and Paula Collins sponsored Andrew Borek, of Polish descent, to come to the states from a German displacement camp. His non-English-speaking family accompanied him, but there was no communication barrier with the Collins family, as Paula was from Poland and spoke the language fluently. Borek served as handyman for the "tourist camp."

In the 1950s, with the widening of the boulevard from a two-lane to a four-lane highway with feeder roads on either side, the State condemned a portion of the Collins's real estate. This required the removal of their commercial building. They saved the top second floor of the two-story building, which constituted the Collins's living quarters, by separating it from the bottom floor and moving it back from the boulevard. This once-top-floor, then-single-story structure served as the first law office of the Collins's nephew Bruce Mills from 1972 until the structure was removed a few years ago.

Several businesses operated out of John and Paula Collins' commercial building, eventually named Collins Centre. One of the first signed leases was to the **Thalia Hardware and Cut Rate Supply Company**, owned and operated by Henry C. Carney. He also opened and operated a second store, **Carney's Confectionery**. Carney wore at least two hats, also serving as area Justice of the Peace. **Thalia Curb Market**, otherwise known as **Dickens Market**, was the small grocery store at the opposite end of Collins Centre from Carney's.

Over the following years, the Collins's acquired the adjoining parcels of land from the estate of Benjamin Dey White, amassing at one time a total of forty acres with over 2,000 feet footage along Virginia Beach Boulevard, approximately from Lynn Shores Drive to Ash Street in Thalia Village. The Collins family constructed Collins Square Shopping Center on fifteen acres of their original forty. It was open to the public in 1990 and is managed by Bruce Mills from his nearby office.



Virginia Beach Town Center-Florence Womack Photography

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR AREA?

City Business

Big City Issue #1

Voting Laws for City Council - City Council voted 10 - 1 to ask the State Legislature to change the law to allow for a 10 -1 District Voting System.

10 Districts (you can only vote for the rep running in your District) and 1 Mayor at - large (everyone can vote for Mayor).

Big City Issue #2

Project Wayne - (rezoning land south of the Green Line) - right now pretty quiet. No news this week.

Big City Issue #3

Comprehensive Plan updates - underway now. The VBCCO (Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations) is going to be an important participant in any proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan that affect established, suburban neighborhoods.

Big City Issue #4

Rudee Loop - Council has decided to build a Park at Rudee Loop. They are starting the search for a "national" firm to design a "world-class" park. There may, or may not, be a retail component. There will be a parking garage.

Want more info? Come to the next Membership meeting on September 18, 2023 and ask questions!



GARDEN CLUB NOTES

Thalia Garden Club News by Rose Buseti, President

Thalia GC (organized 1955) is one of 28 active garden clubs in the city of Virginia Beach that is part of the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach (CGCVB), founded 1950. We meet the third Wednesday (September to May) at 10am. Call 757-306-8901 for more information. We currently have 17 members.

Upcoming meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30am at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library. Enter through the rear of the building to access the Auditorium (the library does not open until 10am).

Programs are free and open to the public unless noted.

Wed, Sep 13 - How Agricultural Crops Have Affected Our Lives and Changed Our History, Matthew R. Chappell, PhD, Professor & Director, Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Suffolk

Wed, Oct 11 - The Twelve Plants of Christmas - Meredith Simmons, Greenhouse Manager, Norfolk Botanical Garden

Wed, Nov 8 - \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door - Educational program - Flower Arranging by Jeremy Schmidt (contact Rose for advanced tickets)

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY

July Local Home Sales

505 Robbins Drive - Thalia Manor
4 BR 2 Bath, 1929 sq ft, \$399,900

421 Lynn Shores Dr - Thalia Manor
3BR 3 Bath, 1662 sq ft, \$440,500

4101 Clintwood Lane—Thalia Manor
3 BR 2 Bath, 1533 sq ft, \$419,000

732 Pinetree Drive Thalia Shores
4 BR 3 Bath, 2528 sq ft, \$700,000

ELECTION NEWS

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CIVIC LEAGUE

Please visit us at the website www.thalianeighbors.com to learn more about the Civic League and what we do for you!

BECOME A MEMBER!

What? You're not a member?
We can fix that!

Visit our webpage at:

[www.thalianeighbors.com/
members/downloads](http://www.thalianeighbors.com/members/downloads)

And download your 2024 membership application.

By Rose Busetti

- September 22– In-person early voting begins
- October 16 - Deadline to register to vote or update your name and address.
- October 28 and October 30 - Nov 4 - Satellite site voting at Bayside Recreation Center, Great Neck Recreation Center, Kempsville Area Library, Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library and Seatack Recreation Center
- Tuesday, Nov 7 - General Election for state Senate, House of Delegates and Soil and Water Conservation Director. 6:00 am – 7:00 PM.

OTHER NEWS

Fall Sign-ups for Boys and Girls Basketball are Underway!

The Thalia Malibu Recreation Association is holding sign ups for the winter season. Sign up now at www.thaliamalibu.com.

City of Virginia Beach offers New Property Search Tool

The City of Virginia Beach has launched a new website to help residents find out more information about more than 160,000 properties in the city. The site is propertysearch.virginiabeach.gov and you can use the site to find real estate data for every residential, commercial, agricultural and tax-exempt property, including detailed sales history, year-by-year assessments, tax rates and annual taxes, year built, square footage of land and buildings, total number of rooms, internal and external features, schematics, aerial images, zoning, flood and noise zones and a downloadable plat.

Virginia Beach Property Search also shows municipal services such as voting location and districts for the City Council and state legislature, trash collection days, police precinct and schools.

Thalia Civic League
c/o 631 Lynn Shores Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Phone: 757-498-2857
E-mail: tcivicleague@gmail.com



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