

THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

AN OFFICAL PUBLICATION OF THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

TOGETHER WE ARE *INCLUSIVE*, *INFORMED*, and *INVOLVED*

WWW.THALIANEIGHBORS.COM



It's almost that time! (“Anticipation” by Richard Stravitz) (photo courtesy VirginiaBeach.gov)

Our NEXT MEETING is:

7:00 PM, MAY 20, 2024, at NEW LIFE CHURCH

Our speaker will be John Moss

John is a former Virginia Beach Councilman and a candidate for Mayor in the upcoming 2024 elections. John will provide what is sure to be an informative session!

(FYI - look inside for the Special Announcement to learn about “Dinner on the Civic League”)

President's Corner

Hi, folks. Thanks for being part of this great neighborhood and thanks to those of you who support the Thalia Civic League through your annual membership. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so now by downloading the membership application and sending in your payment. <https://thalianeighbors.com/members>

The Civic League is sponsoring a neighborhood cookout on May 20 beginning at 5:30 pm in advance of the next Civic League meeting. Free hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda. Come out, grab a bite, meet some neighbors, and then attend the Civic League meeting after eating! The cookout is at New Life Church, 420 Thalia Road, and is the same place our membership meetings are held. This month's Guest Speaker is former Councilman John Moss, Candidate for Mayor.

Last month, long time Civic League Secretary Rose Buseti resigned to move on the other pursuits. So, we are currently in need of a Secretary to take minutes twice a month (Membership meetings and Board meetings). If you have a desire to help, but not too much, this might be a possibility for you to volunteer for a few hours a month. On that subject, it is not too early to start thinking about the upcoming Thalia Civic League Election of Officers. This will happen in November. All of the Director and Officer positions are open, and we are hoping that some of the younger (younger than us, anyway) folks might be interested in stepping up and seeing what they can do with the organization.

Life is funny sometimes; it really does come full circle...Treasurer Mike was reviewing some old Civic League documents the other day and came across my Dad's name as one of the founders of the Thalia Civic League. I knew he was a plank holder at the Thalia Volunteer Fire Department, but I never knew that he was involved in the Civic League. Take care and thanks, again, for supporting the neighborhood.

Rick

A time to reflect and help others

Helping others is an important part of life, both to the helper and to those being helped. The littlest gesture can make a big difference to all parties. Giving someone an unexpected (- or expected) compliment; doing a small chore without being asked; even the basics of common courtesy - "hello", "thank you", "you're welcome", "can I help you?" - are meaningful to us all. Most of all - be positive, appreciative, and take an active role in helping your VB community!

2024 TCL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IS HERE: <https://thalianeighbors.com/members>

FACT

During the "COVID crisis", 51% of American citizens nationally volunteered to help others, formally and informally.
The highest percentage? Gen X!

AN EXPLAINER

Rabbits do not have to move their heads to see behind them. That surely must explain why our gardens disappear overnight - we don't have a chance...

PS: ME Oberndorf Library has started putting out garden seeds. Great way to teach kids how to grow!

Last Newsletter, we directed your attention to:

SPEAK UP!

VA BEACH ACTIVE SURVEYS

<https://www.speakupvb.com/a8333>

[TRANSPORTATION PLAN IMPROVEMENTS](#)

Well, the Survey's over - and here are take-aways worth noting:

Top Three issues: Speeding, lack of walking/biking options, road safety
District 2 (16%) and Districts 8, 5, and 1 (12% ea) were the highest number of respondents

91% had 1 - 4 in the household

Barriers to public transit: prefer own car (59%); takes too much time (48%); does not go to desired destination (46%)

59% have access to public transit but don't use it

60% of drivers do not use ridesharing

Errands/shopping was the top reason for travel (93%)

Interest in receiving the City's "Be in the Know" email newsletter: 52% - NO (surprising!)
48% - YES

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This month, we will be trying something new to attract more of our Civic League members (and prospective members) to the monthly meeting as well as to provide a venue for neighbors to meet and socialize a bit.

DINNER IS ON US!

Come join us on Monday, May 20, 2024 - BEFORE THE MEETING at 5:30 PM for an old-fashioned outdoor cookout! We'll serve hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, soda, and water - and we won't ask for a tip!

Non-members are welcome, and we will have a sign-up table set up for the convenience of those who would like to join or renew!

WHO YOU GONNA CALL? (A quick and handy VB Contacts list)

Virginia Beach City Council District 8 Chris Taylor chtaylor@vbgov.com 757-840-5859

Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer mayorsoffice@vbgov.com 757-385-458

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

Virginia House of Delegates 83rd District Anne Ferrell Tata delaftata@house.virginia.gov

US House of Representatives 2nd District Jen Kiggans <https://kiggans.house.gov/contact>

Please read the following stealth Neighborhood Watch announcement -

WALKING – a multi-purpose tool everyone should have in their toolkit

Finally, the days are getting longer and warmer. People are starting to get out of their houses more and more. A lot of our neighbors are walking, biking or jogging around our community. If you are not one of them maybe, it's something that you should consider. Walking is the most popular physical activity among adults in the United States. It is a gentle, low-impact exercise that can ease you into a higher level of fitness and health.

Walking is the easiest way to begin the exercise habit. It is one of your body's most natural forms of exercise. It's safe, simple, doesn't require practice, and the health benefits are many. Not only can you do it almost anywhere... it's free! The risk of injury is low for walking, most everyone can do it, it burns calories, and it helps make you fit and healthy. We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood that is so appealing for walking, biking, and jogging.

Before you set out, select comfortable footwear and dress in loose fitting clothing. If you find that you need to walk in the street, you should walk facing traffic. Bikers should ride with traffic.

When the sun starts to go down it becomes increasingly difficult for drivers who are concentrating on driving to see walkers and bikers that are wearing dark clothes. Wear white or other colors easily seen in the dark. Recently several people have commented about the "close call" they had with walkers or bikers that were difficult to see because they were wearing dark clothing after the sun went down.

How does this topic relate to Neighborhood Watch? Walking provides opportunities to meet your neighbors and admire our beautiful surroundings. It also gives you the ability to observe more of your surrounding area and to watch for anything that appears suspicious. If you do notice anything or anybody suspicious, **call the non-emergency number (757-385-5000) or if a crime is in progress call 911.** Walking is good for your health and the wellbeing of your community. Criminals see people walking or biking and they identify them as potential witnesses. They would prefer to operate in communities where the streets are deserted, the houses dark and window shades drawn, not in an active community like ours.

(Article copied verbatim from Lake Smith Ripples – **emphasis added**, our thanks to Sam Hribal)

(EDITOR'S COMMENT: A Neighborhood Watch designation is an official one issued by the VBPD. While the informal methods mentioned above are good, they are but a start to becoming a certified Neighborhood Watch. We need a lot of folks to make this happen. Can we count on you?)

How to Seal a Deck

If you've opted for a clear or lightly tinted deck sealer to keep the grain of your wood deck showing through, good for you. Few surfaces can compete with the natural beauty of wood, but **your good intentions come with a DIY challenge: wood decks require vigilant maintenance to maintain their natural good looks, and you'll have to refinish and seal your deck on a regular basis to keep it beautiful and splinter-free.**

The job has two parts: cleaning the deck and applying a deck sealer.

Cleaning the Deck

Start by removing any gunk and debris from between boards — screwdrivers and putty knives are good tools for this chore. Then give your deck a good sweeping.

To prep your deck for sealer, first give it a cleaning using a deck cleaner available at any hardware store or big box outlet. If you have a cedar or redwood deck that's stained with mold or mildew, use a deck brightener to help remove stains.

You'll want to protect nearby shrubs and plants with plastic sheets before you start and choose a cloudy but not rainy day for applying the deck cleaner. That way, the sun won't dry out the cleaner too fast. Apply the cleaner with a paint roller, a garden sprayer, or a bristle brush. To clean wood railings and posts, work from the bottom up. If you work from the top down, spills and splatters can get on dry wood, leaving spots that are difficult to remove.

Let the cleaner sit according to the manufacturer's directions, then rinse thoroughly. Let your deck dry completely — give it at least 48 hours before applying a deck sealer.

Applying a Deck Sealer

Sealers and stains are available at home improvement centers for about \$30 per gallon —enough to cover 250 square feet of decking.

When it comes to choosing the best deck sealer, you've got several choices. In general, the more opaque the sealer the better its weather and wear-fighting abilities. However, lighter finishes let more of the wood's **natural grain and beauty show through. The clearer the deck sealant, the more often you'll have to** clean and seal your deck.

Clear and wood-toned sealers enhance wood's natural grain and color.

Semi-transparent deck sealer/stains are lightly pigmented and let grain show through but change the tone of your wood. They come in shades of blue, gray, brown, green and red.

Check the forecast for a clear, two-day period with moderate temps between 50 and 90 degrees. Sand the deck to remove any fuzzy grain raised by the washing. Use 80-grit sandpaper, and thoroughly sweep or vacuum the decking when you're done. This is a good time to countersink any raised nail heads or popped screws.

Apply painter's tape to any nearby surfaces such as siding that you need to protect. Apply the deck sealer with a natural bristle brush. A roller is faster, but brushing helps force the sealer into open pores and grain. Make sure to get the sealer into joints where two boards butt together. Apply the deck sealer to three or four boards at once, working their entire length. You don't want to spill or lap over onto adjacent boards or you'll have splotches that are hard to conceal.

Source - <https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/outdoor-spaces/decks--porches-and-patios/how-to-seal-a-deck>

Thalia Civic League, Inc.

JOIN THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Household Dues: \$20.00 – 2024 Calendar Year (through 12/31/24)

Member name(s) _____

Street address _____

PRIMARY Phone _____ **ALTERNATE** _____

e-mail for Civic League contact _____

I want to receive e-mails related to Thalia Civic League activities and initiatives.
Understand my e-mail information will be kept confidential and will not be shared.

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

I would like to help in some way - Please contact me about opportunities to work with the Thalia Civic League Board.

I hereby apply for membership in the Thalia Civic League, Inc. I understand that dues are for the running calendar year and are per household.

(Signed) _____

YOUR APPLICATION INFO IS CONFIDENTIAL AND IS NOT SHARED.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR SUBURBAN VB NEIGHBORHOOD!

You can mail or drop off your application:
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 (RECORDER)

OPINIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR COMMENTS? ALL INPUTS ARE REVIEWED BY THE TCL BOARD

Dear Thalia Civic League Board: