

Thalia Civic League Newsletter

Volume 30 Issue 2

May 2022

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

Thalia Residents: *Informed - Inclusive - Involved*

<https://thalianeighbors.com>

WE WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR TRANSITION FROM PAPER TO ALL-DIGITAL COMMUNICATION. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ, REPLY AND RESPOND – TOGETHER WE MAKE THALIA GREAT!

IT'S ALMOST SUMMER!

This brief newsletter reiterates information we have emphasized in the past and brings with it copies of two city pamphlets that you may wish to keep handy along with a Membership Application. We are shaping our program and providing "official" city information regarding topics you have told us are important, based upon inputs you have provided. As we continue to do our research to bring you topical information and interesting speakers, we are hopeful that you will maintain your civic league membership and will encourage your neighbors to do so as well – together we are a community.

When you complete your membership application, please fill in your email address and allow us to directly send Civic League ONLY information to you on an occasional basis. The cost savings of using email versus a paper newsletter – especially a mailed paper newsletter – is quite significant and allows the use of those funds for other Civic League endeavors.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING EMAIL FROM THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE:

We occasionally send out email “blasts” to our list of members and former members who have given us permission to do so; we do so through a provider named MailChimp . However, some individuals have indicated they have not received these emails. Unfortunately, it likely ended up in your SPAM folder. To remedy this, you must go to the SPAM folder and mark the email as “safe”. The best way to do so is to “always allow Sender” or “never block Sender” or similar action. Unfortunately, this seems to be a Microsoft security “feature” that pertains mostly to commercial entities engaged in the competitive bulk emailing business. Our apologies, we are looking at other products for future use.

CONTINUING PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

With summer now approaching, we see an increasing number of individuals walking along the various roadways within the Thalia area, many of whom wear clothing that is not distinctive in the dark (read: non-reflective items), as well as those who walk on the incorrect side of the road. Not much is worse on a driver than when someone emerges from the dark, right in front of your car, going in the same direction, and wearing dark clothes.

This situation is 100% dangerous and preventable.

WHILE WALKING ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLEASE REMEMBER: WEAR LIGHT-COLORED OR REFLECTIVE CLOTHING and WALK OPPOSITE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

Prevention is better than cure.

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MAY MEETING NOTES

Our next general meeting is May 16, 2022 and will be the last meeting until September.

This does not mean your civic league board will put all things civic league "on hold"; we will be planning for several key events, not the least of which is the election of civic league officers and board members for the 2023/2024 operating years. There is also an upcoming general election in November where we will vote for a City Council representative consistent with the new districting maps (Thalia is District 8), along with state and federal candidates. Please do your research homework and get out your vote! If you want action, take action...

The speaker for our May meeting is Ms. Tara Copeland, Stormwater Outreach Coordinator, City of Virginia Beach. Ms. Copeland will discuss the Stormwater Program and will address questions from the audience. It is sure to be insightful and may provide answers to nagging questions we may have.

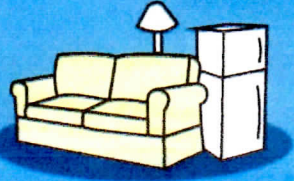
Informational handouts

Following are two separate city brochures/handouts which were converted from paper to be included in this newsletter. They address two separate but interwoven topics brought to the Board by concerned individuals who provided feedback regarding their "hot topics". Keep them handy and share with neighbors who may have questions and/or concerns that can be easily addressed by referring to the information.

They are: 1) Bulky Item Guidelines (from the Waste Management Department) for curbside pickup or delivery to a Transfer Station or the landfill by homeowners; and,
 2) Maintenance Requirements (from the Housing and Neighborhood Preservation Department) pertaining to existing dwellings, buildings, and properties.

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH BULKY ITEM GUIDELINES

Residents can request pickup for bulky items such as furniture and appliances.



You must schedule a pickup. Call, email or access our website to schedule a pickup 24 hours in advance of your collection day.



Place bulky items in front of your actual residence between 5:00 pm on the day prior to collection and 7:00 am the day of collection.



Do not place items at the end of alley ways or city right-of-way. Violators can face fines for illegal dumping up to \$2,500. City Code Section 31-10.



Please place items at the curb free of obstructions such as overhead wires, cable boxes, tree limbs and vehicles. Please allow three feet of clearance of items.



No loose items. Bulk items must be properly packaged in closed boxes or containers to avoid litter problems.



Residents are responsible for cleaning up any residual trash and litter as a result of improper preparation or packaging.



Construction debris, bags, carpet, paint hazardous materials, etc. will not be collected by the city and must be taken to the landfill or other approved collection facility. See reverse side for list.

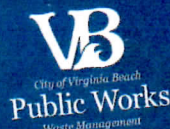
The following items are **NOT** accepted.

- Bags
- Building/Remodeling Material
- Cabinets
- Carpet
- Concrete
- Doors
- Glass
- Hazardous Materials
- Paint
- Propane Tanks
- Dirt/Rocks
- Sinks
- Tires
- Toilets
- Vehicle Parts
- Wood Pallets

Some times that are not listed may also not be collected. Please call with questions. Please mention if you have a Freon containing appliance because this item requires special handling.

These items can be delivered by homeowners in a privately owned, non-commercial, vehicle to the following sites:

- **City Landfill and Resource Recovery Center**
1989 Jake Sears Road - Phone: 385-1980
Tuesday - Saturday: 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Proof of Virginia Beach residency required.
- **SPSA Landstown Transfer Station**
1825 Concert Drive - Phone: 961-3986;
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. - Noon
No Hazardous Materials



www.VBgov.com/wastemgt

3024 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
wastemgt@vbgov.com
757-385-4650



VIRGINIA MAINTENANCE CODE (VMC)

Code Enforcement enforces the Virginia Maintenance Code, which applies to existing dwellings, buildings and structures. The VMC is enforced through complaint response, inspector patrols and systematic exterior neighborhood inspections. The time allowed for correcting violations ranges from 24 hours to 30 days, depending on the nature and seriousness of violations. Failure to comply with notices can result in legal action that may result in fines up to \$2,500.

COMMON EXTERIOR VIOLATIONS

- Peeling, flaking and chipped paint
- Loose and missing roof shingles
- Missing or deteriorated siding
- Sheds or fences in disrepair
- Gutters rusted or hanging loose
- Vacant, open buildings
- Street number not properly displayed

COMMON INTERIOR VIOLATIONS

- Gas appliance Red Tagged by Virginia Natural Gas
- Plumbing leaks
- Electrical system hazards
- Inoperative heating systems
- Damage from leaking roofs
- Pest infestation
- Smoke detector missing or inoperative

UNSAFE BUILDINGS: Dilapidated, otherwise unsafe, or vacant and open buildings are posted with an Unsafe Building placard. Vacant and open buildings are required to be secured within 48 hours. Failure to comply will result in the building being secured by the city's contractor. If necessary to protect public safety, unsafe buildings may be demolished, with all costs charged to the owner.

EXTENSIONS: Extensions in the time allowed for correction of violations of the VMC may be granted if necessary repairs are temporarily delayed due to practical difficulties. A written request addressed to the Code Enforcement Division, including the address of the property, brief explanation of the difficulty and reasonable time frame for repairs must be received before the time allowed for compliance has expired.

RIGHT TO APPEAL: Section 106.5 of the Virginia Maintenance Code provides for appeals concerning the application of this code or the refusal to grant a modification to the provisions of this code. Appeals shall be submitted to the Local Board of Building Code Appeals (LBBCA) within 14 days. Appeal applications should be addressed to the LBBCA, in care of this office. The applications shall contain the name and address of the property owner and the name and address of the person appealing, when the applicant is not the owner. You must include a copy of the code official's decision you are appealing, clearly indicate why you are aggrieved by the decision and what relief you are seeking. A fee of \$250.00 must be submitted by cashier's check or money order with each appeal application.

AFFORDABLE HOME REPAIR LOANS: Housing and Neighborhood Preservation has programs to assist in the repair or rehabilitation of private dwellings. For more information, call (757) 385-5750 or visit www.vb.gov.com/housing.

VMC REQUIREMENTS

The following excerpts from the Virginia Maintenance Code are not complete or intended to be all inclusive. Other code requirements may apply to a particular property.

EXTERIOR PROPERTY AREAS

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES: All accessory structures, including detached garages, fences and walls shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

EXTERIOR OF STRUCTURE

EXTERIOR PAINTING: All wood and metal surfaces shall be maintained in good condition. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted.

STREET NUMBERS: Each structure shall display assigned street numbers of at least 4 inches high and 1/2 inch wide, and visible from the public right-of-way.

STRUCTURAL MEMBERS: Structural members shall be maintained free of deterioration.

FOUNDATION WALLS: Shall be maintained plumb and free from open cracks and breaks.

EXTERIOR WALLS: Shall be weatherproof and maintained, free of holes, breaks, loose or rotting materials; and properly surface coated where required to prevent deterioration.

ROOFS & DRAINAGE: Roof and flashing shall be sound, tight, and not have defects which admit rain.

DECORATIVE FEATURES - TRIM: All cornices, terracotta trim, wall facing and similar decorative features shall be maintained in good repair.

CHIMNEY: Shall be maintained structurally safe, sound and in good repair. Exposed surfaces of metal or wood shall be protected against the elements by surface treatment to prevent decay or rust.

HANDRAILS & GUARDS: Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

WINDOWS & DOOR FRAMES: Shall be weather tight and properly maintained.

GLAZING: All glazing material shall be maintained free of cracks and holes.

OPENABLE WINDOWS: Every window, other than a fixed window, shall be easily openable and capable of being held in position by window hardware.

DOORS: All exterior doors and hardware shall be maintained in good condition.

SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS & HOT TUB ENCLOSURES: Private pools, spas, and hot tubs must be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48 inches high, with self-closing and self-latching gates and doors. Pools must be kept clean and sanitary.

INTERIOR OF STRUCTURE

INTERIOR SURFACES: All interior surfaces, including windows and doors, shall be maintained in good, clean and sanitary condition. Peeling paint, cracked or loose plaster, decayed wood, and other defective surface conditions shall be corrected.

STAIRS & RAILINGS: All interior stairs and railings shall be maintained in sound condition and good repair.

HANDRAILS & GUARDS: Every handrail and guardrail shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH & GARBAGE: The interior of every structure shall be free from an accumulation of rubbish or garbage.

INFESTATIONS: All structures shall be kept free from insect and rat infestation.

HABITABLE SPACES -- VENTILATION: Every habitable space shall have at least one openable window of the proper dimensions.

REQUIRED FACILITIES: Every dwelling unit shall contain its own plumbing facilities consisting of a water closet and lavatory, bathtub or shower and kitchen sink that are in proper operating condition.

PLUMBING FIXTURES: All plumbing fixtures shall be maintained in a safe, sanitary and sound condition.

GENERAL - WATER SYSTEMS: Every sink, lavatory, bathtub or shower, drinking fountain, water closet or other plumbing fixture shall be properly connected to either a public water system or to an approved private water system. All kitchen sinks, lavatories, laundry facilities, bathtubs and showers shall be supplied with hot/tempered and cold running water

WATER HEATING FACILITIES: Shall be installed in an approved manner and properly maintained. Facilities shall be capable of heating water at a temperature of not less than 110 degrees F. (43 degrees C).

COOKING & HEATING EQUIPMENT: All cooking and heating equipment, components and accessories in every heating, cooking and water-heating device shall be maintained free from leaks and obstructions.

INSTALLATION: All electrical equipment, wiring and appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe and approved manner

ELECTRICAL FACILITIES - RECEPTACLES: Every habitable space in a dwelling shall contain at least two separate and remote receptacle outlets. Laundry areas shall contain at least one grounded type receptacle. Every bathroom shall contain at least one receptacle.

SMOKE DETECTORS: All residential occupancies shall be provided with operational smoke detectors in locations required when the structure was built.

CITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCES

Property maintenance ordinances are enforced citywide and apply to undeveloped and developed private properties. The time allowed for correcting most property maintenance violations is seven days. Failure to comply may result in the correction of violations by the city's contractor, with all costs charged to the owner, or in legal action with possible fines of up to \$2,500. Vacant, accessible properties can be referred to the city's contractor for abatement. Occupied or inaccessible properties are usually addressed through legal action. Inoperable vehicles are towed if accessible.

COMMON PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS

- Overgrown weeds or grass on vacant or developed lots (including easements behind townhouses)
- Open storage of junk
- Accumulations of litter and trash
- Tree hazards (dead, diseased, etc.)
- Inoperable vehicles on private property
- Waste Management violations involving storage or disposal of refuse
- Illegal dumping
- Public nuisances (stagnant pools)

CITY CODE REQUIREMENTS

The following property maintenance ordinances are not complete or intended to be all inclusive. Other code requirements may apply to a particular property.

SEC. 23-50 (a) TRASH, GARBAGE, REFUSE, LITTER: Any accumulation on land or premises, except for what is properly stored for weekly pickup, constitutes a violation.

SEC. 23-50 (b) OVERGROWTH OF GRASS & WEEDS: Growth in excess of 10 inches constitutes a violation.

SEC. 31-28 POINTS OF COLLECTION: Receptacles are to be placed on curb line by 7 a.m. on collection day, no earlier than 5 p.m. the preceding day, and removed from the street and stored behind the front plane of the building after collections on the same day.

SEC. 23-48 OPEN STORAGE OF JUNK: Rusted, deteriorated, dilapidated machinery, equipment, material, etc., is prohibited from being stored outside.

SEC. 16-40 INOPERABLE VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY: The following conditions constitute a violation:

- Vehicle that is not in operating condition.
- Vehicle partially or totally disassembled by removal of essential parts required for operation.
- Vehicle has neither valid license plates nor a valid inspection decal displayed. Placing a cover over an inoperable vehicle for which a notice of violation has been issued is prohibited.

SEC. 16-41.1 PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES:

Parking of a commercial vehicle in residential or apartment zoning districts is prohibited except that:

- One commercial vehicle of one ton or less in carrying capacity, under seven feet in height and less than 20 feet in length may be parked on any lot where there is a main building owned or occupied by a resident of the premises.
- Commercial vehicles during the normal conduct of business or in the delivery or provision of service to a residential area are allowed.
- Parking of a semitrailer for commercial or industrial storage on a bona fide construction site.

SEC. 16-41.2 PARKING & STORAGE OF RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT: Recreational equipment such as trailers, boats, motor homes, off road vehicles, etc., can be stored in a residential area under the following limitations:

- Equipment shall be parked or stored on any lot within a building or behind every plan of a structure that is substantially parallel to and facing the public right-of-way.
- On through lots, such equipment may also be parked or stored on the portion of the lot that is clearly and physically the rear of the lot provided that it is substantially screened from the public right-of-way with a six-foot solid fence or equivalent vegetation or landscaping.
- On corner lots, such equipment may also be parked or stored on the portion of the lot that is clearly and physically the rear of the lot and behind the plane of the house parallel and closest to the public right-of-way.
- Such equipment may be parked in a driveway for a period not to exceed 24 hours for loading and unloading purposes only.
- Such equipment may be parked in a public street for a period not to exceed three hours.
- No such equipment shall be used for living, sleeping, or housekeeping purposes except in locations lawfully established for such use.

SEC. 23-50-1 TREES: DEAD, DISEASED, ETC.: Trees on private property that are deemed hazardous must be removed or properly trimmed without delay.

GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The program allows authorized agents to remove graffiti on *private property, which is visible from the public right-of-way*, by power washing or painting over defacements at *no cost to the property owner*.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

In response to the need to ensure the continued quality of the city's rental housing, the Virginia Beach City Council instituted a requirement for a Certificate of Compliance (CC) Inspection for certain rental dwellings. Section 16-12.1 of the City Code requires a satisfactory CC inspection for any rental dwelling or dwelling unit that is located in a census tract block group designated by the City Council as a Rental Inspection District. A map and list of the rental inspection districts are available at www.vbgov.com/housing, and at our office. It is the responsibility of the owner of rental dwellings to request that a CC inspection be conducted.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE RENTAL INSPECTION

CC inspections may be requested by calling Code Enforcement at (757) 385-4421. Requests must include the address of the dwelling, the owner's name, the name of the person meeting the inspector at the site and a contact phone number. An inspection shall be scheduled within two (2) working days of the request. A fee of \$50 is required for the initial inspection including one re-inspection if needed. An additional fee of \$50 will be required for each additional re-inspection. Accepted forms of payment made by mail or in person are personal check, cashier's check, or money order made payable to the City of Virginia Beach. Inspectors do not accept payments in the field. Payments made online at <https://citizenaccess.vbgov.com> can be paid by credit card.

TIME LIMITS

1. If the initial Certificate of Compliance inspection reveals no code violations, a Certificate of Compliance is issued with a 4-year exemption from the rental ordinance.
2. A Temporary Certificate of Compliance may be issued where there are no apparent health or safety hazards to an occupant. Occupancy of a dwelling is permitted for a time period necessary to correct the code violations (normally no more than 30 days).
3. A rejection certificate and an unsafe notice are issued if health and/or safety issues are noted. A timeframe of two to seven days is given for compliance.

PENALTIES

1. An owner who fails to obtain a Certificate of Compliance inspection shall be subject to the penalties described in Section 16-11. Upon conviction, the owner shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,500.
2. The failure of an owner to affect compliance within the period of time specified in a Notice of Violation issued for a Temporary Certificate of Compliance or a Rejection Certificate shall be subject to the penalties described in Section 16-11. Upon conviction the owner shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,500. Each day that the violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS

Owners of multi-family complexes who are seeking an exemption are required to have a sampling of the total dwelling units inspected as follows:

- Ten percent of units (up to 100 units) with a minimum of two units inspected.
- Two additional units must be inspected for every 100 units thereafter (or portion thereof).

A four-year exemption is issued if no violations of the Virginia Maintenance Code are found. The complex can only be charged for a maximum of 10 units during an exemption inspection regardless of the number of units that are inspected.

HOW TO ISSUE COMPLAINTS

Code Enforcement utilizes an anonymous complaint system and does not relinquish the names and contact information of complainants. Complainants are not required to leave their name or contact information unless a response to complaints is requested. Complaints may be submitted via:

- Phone at (757) 385-4421
- Email at HouseNP@vbgov.com
- Website at www.vbgovcom/housing

The Virginia Beach Department of Housing & Neighborhood Preservation does business in accordance with the federal fair housing law and Section 504 program accessibility requirements. The department complies with the Fair Housing Act and provides reasonable accommodations and modifications to persons with disabilities. Virginia Beach Housing & Neighborhood Preservation does not discriminate on the bases of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, in admission or access to its programs.

Revised 04/2018

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

FOR EXISTING DWELLINGS, BUILDINGS & PROPERTIES

CODE ENFORCEMENT

2424 COURTHOUSE DRIVE, BLDG. 18A
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456
(757) 385-4421
HOUSENP@VBGOV.COM
WWW.VBGOV.COM/HOUSING

Thalia Civic League, Inc.

JOIN THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Household Dues: \$20.00 – 2022 Calendar Year (through 12/31/22)

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. *I 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 NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**You can mail or drop off your application:
THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.
c/o Mike Dougherty, President
631 Lynn Shores Drive (drop it off in the milk box on the porch)
757-498-2857 (RECORDER)**

OPINIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR COMMENTS? CONTACT US!

THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Dougherty	President	tclmikedougherty@gmail.com
Rick Boyles	Vice President	tclrickboyles@outlook.com
Rose Busetti	Secretary	rosebusetti@hotmail.com
Rona March	Treasurer	tclrmarch@outlook.com
Bruno Eddy	Board – At-large	tclbrunoeddy@gmail.com
Michelle Exum	Board – At-large	mexum2@gmail.com
Gail Kynett	Board – At-large	kynett@verizon.net

(You will find suggestions and ideas on the reverse side)