

# Thalia Civic League Newsletter

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

Volume 28 Issue 2

PROMOTING CIVIC BETTERMENT

March 2020

Thalia citizens: Informed and Involved

Website: <https://thalianeighbors.com>

**Thalia Civic League Meeting – Monday, March 16, 2020 – 7:00PM – New Life Church**

## President's Message: *A Blank Canvas*

As I start to write this article, trying to fill in the white space, I remind myself that it is a blank canvas, and it is up to me to fill it in and gain your attention. Likewise, at the same time I am mindful that our Thalia neighbors and friends offer a palette of ideas, initiatives and “elbow grease” contributions that are now and can be harnessed in the future to make our great neighborhood even better. A good example of this is our Rezoning Task Force, led by Rick Boyles. Who “woulda thought” that a little orange sign would be the catalyst for creating a focused group to protect the “Thalia” persona and charm that has made this a most sought-after place to live in Virginia Beach?

But I digress. The Thalia Civic League is *your* organization, with its elected officers charged to mindfully and responsibly protect the collective interest of the neighborhood through communication and outreach, information sharing, and the enactment of initiatives and projects that serve *all* 850 (+/-) houses and nearly 5000 residents. It is not now and never will be a bully pulpit, a political surrogate, or a social status organization. (As your President, I promise to NEVER use Twitter! - #mikesaysnoway.) Our responsibility is not to be a referee in a squabble with a neighbor, nor is it to turn a blind eye to a family in need of some help. Perhaps it is best said that the Thalia Civic League exists to serve as a facilitator of the “Thalia Life”.

What does this mean? For one thing, it will mean that change will be in the air. We are working at establishing a digital presence and using digital communications. Our paper newsletter is all but extinct. (NOTE: We are working on alternative delivery methods for those members who do not have or choose not to embrace digital technology. We believe this presents a good citizenship opportunity for a scouting or similar organization to hand-deliver the newsletters to “non-digital” members. If you can assist with this, please contact me by email (my address is at the bottom of this article)) In the interim, while we are putting our communication game plan together, <http://www.thalianeighbors.com> is serving as the de facto website for the Civic League. While its primary existence is in support of our opposition to the proposed Willis rezoning, a trove of “Civic League” information is available to browse through.

We will be looking for interesting programs and speakers. Rather than have one “main” speaker or program, we may occasionally have two or three “mini-presentations” centered around a singular theme. Do you own a business that can serve all - or most - of Thalia? Let me know if you are interested in presenting your business - or possibly writing a general interest piece for our Newsletter. Although it seems like we “always” have speakers and inputs from City offices, it is not a requisite! Change is good, and, like Spring, is in the air! Also, don't forget the TCL Political Forum in September, sure to be “interesting” during this 2020 election cycle!

Fresh ideas and outlooks are most welcome – to paraphrase a Native American proverb, many eyes (and minds) are better than one. Our objective here is unity through education, discussion and conversation. Let's all work *together* to preserve the quality of life in our great Thalia neighborhood and throughout Virginia Beach! The best way to do this is to start filling in our canvases.

Mike Dougherty ([tclmikedougherty@gmail.com](mailto:tclmikedougherty@gmail.com))

# WILLIS WAYSIDE REZONING UPDATE

by Rick Boyles

Thalia Road Partners/Venture Realty has applied to the City to rezone the Willis Wayside property from B-2 to B4-C. They are asking for a rezoning so that they may tear down the Willis building and some of the shops in order to build 261 apartments, two of which are five stories in height.

84% of the Thalia neighbors who responded to a Civic League survey opposed the project.

The Thalia Civic League Rezoning Task Force was established and has been gathering information for the past few months about this proposal. Preliminary neighborhood objections have been sent to the Planning Department on 19 different subjects.

The Rezoning Task Force is preparing a report in opposition to the rezoning, for presentation to the Planning Commission and to the City Council, in which we will make our arguments against allowing this rezoning.

As of this week, the applicant has been unable to provide the City with sufficient data on stormwater management, proper number of parking spaces, and many other requirements that would allow this project to move forward.

The applicant must go before the Planning Commission to receive a recommendation. That hearing has been rescheduled several times and it currently on the April 8, 2020 docket at 12:00 noon.

Please consider attending the hearing and sign up to be a speaker. The more voices we have, the better chance of being heard. You do not have to be a professional speaker; just stand up and tell them no to the rezoning.

If the hearing date changes, we will email those folks for whom we have an email address along with posting updates on the Thalia Neighbors website at <https://thalianeighbors.com> and on the Thalia Neighbors Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/32751877957>

## Thalia Civic League Giveaway!

### Dell Optiplex 3070 Micro Form Factor PC

Valued at \$795!

Includes a 24" Dell Monitor & a 3-year Dell Warranty

1. Attend the March 16, 2020 Civic League Meeting to pick up your entry ticket.
2. Attend the April 6, 2020 "Rally the Troops" Meeting and turn in your ticket!

**You MUST attend both of these meetings to be eligible!!!!**

**You MUST be a Thalia Civic League Member in Good Standing (2020 Dues Paid)**

**You MUST be present to win!**

One lucky person will walk away with a brand-new computer and monitor on April 6th!

## What is the Value of One Single Solitary Tree?

by Gail Kynett

Thalia is a tree-rich neighborhood! Our neighborhood is one of Virginia Beach's best examples of an 'urban forest' and one reason why homes are so desirable here. According to LRNOW's 'Plant for the Future', one tree can take up several hundred gallons of water from the ground daily, provide enough oxygen for a year for you and another person, give room and board for wildlife, and cool the earth by providing shade, emitting water vapor, and absorbing carbon.

**Trees remove pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, ozone, and carbon monoxide from the air.** Poor air quality can lead to health problems, landscape damage, degraded ecosystems, and reduced visibility.

**Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and store carbon as wood.**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere - trees trap the carbon and release the oxygen.

**Trees help control storm water.**

The leaves on trees intercept rainfall while their roots absorb water from the ground.

**Trees provide other benefits as well!**

They enhance property values, improve health and well-being, lower summer air temperatures, and provide wildlife habitat.

Like quantification? By using a web-based tool ([iTreetools.org](http://iTreetools.org)), you can do a little measurement of a tree on your property or public space and get a lot of information! When it calculates avoided runoff, intercepted rainfall, reduced pollution and energy savings, you will appreciate even more the fresh new leaves and emergent growth of springtime!

*Next issue: Why do trees like company?*



Custom work  
Expert Repairs  
Antique Jewelry Restoration  
Jeweler on Premises  
Diamonds & Colored Stones  
Appraisals  
We Buy Gold

**757-425-8723**

The Marketplace at Hilltop  
737 First Colonial Road, Suite 210  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**MAKING YOUR IDEAS COME TO LIFE**



Hearing Services

OF VIRGINIA

Hear Better Now

**Is it time to check your HEARING?**

- 1) You think people mumble?
- 2) You frequently ask people to repeat themselves?
- 3) You struggle to understand in social situations?
- 4) You experience ringing in your ears?
- 5) You wear hearing aids but would like to know about new technology?

**If you have one or more concerns, it is time to schedule a hearing evaluation.**

Call **Hearing Services of Virginia** at 757-962-2326 to schedule an appointment with **Dr. Molly Howlett, CCC-A.**

We are conveniently located at 4356 Bonney Rd., Suite 1-102, Virginia Beach (Town Center) and accept most insurances.

## Civic League Membership

by Bruno Eddy

Being a member of the Thalia Civic League gives you influence in your neighborhood. Pitching in and lending your voice to a collective effort enables you to make a difference in keeping our wonderful neighborhood safe and effectively supported by City Government.

The Thalia Civic League (TCL) is dedicated to serving the Thalia Community and helping to elevate residents' concerns to Virginia Beach City Government. An example of this is the Thalia Civic League Rezoning Task Force formed in response to Venture Realty's proposal for the current Willis Wayside property. Please see Rick Boyles' article for an update!

We recently had a major turnover of our Executive leadership and are in the process of developing goals and objectives for 2020. One of our goals is to increase neighborhood participation and support of the Civic League. Your thoughts, opinions, and support are vital to enable us to continue keeping Thalia a great neighborhood in which to live. Membership dues are only \$10 a year per family. Dues go toward fees for our meeting location, scholarships, and other donations to worthy causes such as PAHS All Night Grad Fest.

Attending meetings is a great way to meet your neighbors! We have interesting speakers on a variety of subjects, tasty refreshments, and door prizes!

If you wish to join the Civic League, please fill out the attached membership application and bring it to our next meeting at 7:00PM on March 16 at the New Life Church on Thalia Road. We hope to see you there!



## Thalia Garden Club Notes



by Joan Haskell

March is a guessing game in the garden. Will it stay warm? Will the rains start/stop? About the only thing we can count on is that March will pass too! So, get your tools "ready to go" for spring, and prune your trees and summer flowering shrubs (not the spring flowering shrubs). Gardeners are always at the mercy of the whims of nature, so remember our plants will still need pruning, feeding and weeding even if the sun doesn't always shine.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The Thalia Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Their next meeting will be March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with guest speaker Michael Krueth of Traditional Agriculture in Williamsburg. His presentation will be about herbal tinctures, tonics and teas taken today that have also been used for centuries to treat many health issues without the known side effects associated with many modern-day medicines.

Call Joan, 486-4043 for more information to attend this meeting or to become a member.



[WWW.HROTC.ORG](http://WWW.HROTC.ORG)

Looking for Dog Training?

We train you to train your dog to succeed!

Training Location:

(Pembroke Manor Civic League Building)  
4452 Hinsdale Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Indoors...climate controlled. Small class sizes

*Classes Offered:*

S.T.A.R. Puppy, Puppy \_ Kindergarten, Puppy Elementary, Obedience (All Levels), Pre-Agility, K9 Nose/Scent Work, Canine Good Citizen (CGC), Therapy Dog, Rally (All Levels), Parkour, Draft Carting, Intro to Flyball Dog Show Basics/Conformation, Dog Trick Class

*AKC Testing:*

Canine Good Citizen (Advanced & Urban), Tricks

**More information can be found on our website.**

## Spring is in the air – with wildlife and critters soon to follow!

A few basic tips to help us maintain some balance with our environment:

- \* ***DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE*** - it is illegal in Virginia to feed wildlife to the extent it becomes a nuisance. Which is quickly... (We aren't talking bird feeders, by the way...)
- \* Close the door behind you when entering and exiting your house and ensure children and elders do so as well.
- \* Report any unusual animal noises, holes in the walls or ground, or animal sightings as soon as possible. Obtain professional assistance as necessary.
- \* Ensure that pet food, bird seed, cookies, crackers, cereals, candy, and bread are kept in closed containers (not just sealed in a plastic bag). Birdseed, if in a bird cage, does not have to be covered if the cage is at least 12 inches (30 cm) from the floor. Do not leave bags of bird seed or pet food in the garage or outdoors; store these products in airtight containers if possible. Do not leave pet food bowls outside.
- \* *Maintain active control of large and small cockroaches.* This includes outside areas (firewood racks, garbage corrals, etc.) Mice and rats will eat roaches and will return to a source area looking for more.
- \* Keep inside corners free of clutter, especially in the garage, in mud rooms, in laundry rooms, and near entrance doors.
- \* Keep your house clean to eliminate pest hiding places or items for them to eat or chew on.
- \* Try to use plastic totes with airtight lids for storage rather than cardboard boxes.
- \* Ensure bedroom closets are uncluttered. (Good time for gathering up some donations too!)
- \* Inspect entrance holes for utility lines that come into the house; seal/reseal them with silicone caulk.
- \* Ensure dryer vents have proper covers installed at their exit from the house. Most have energy-saving dampers.
- \* Ensure there are no gaps of over  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) at the bottom of any entrance door. Install or adjust door sweeps to prevent air leaks.
- \* Ensure there are no gaps in the bottom seal of your windows or around window screens. If you open a window for fresh air, make sure it is screened and the screen fits properly. Caulk and weatherstripping are inexpensive and work well to fix most air leak issues.
- \* Make sure your yard is uncluttered and the grass is cut regularly. *Eliminate all standing water daily!*
- \* Bird feeders should be placed well away from the home and bird seed should be cleaned off the ground *daily* - bird seed on the ground attracts many different critters and pests.

~ Information provided courtesy of your Thalia neighbors, the Wauhops

<http://www.zooproanimalremoval.com>



# March 16 Meeting

Our next Thalia Civic League general membership meeting will be held at New Life Church, 420 Thalia Road at 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker will be Linda Young, a Recruiting Assistant with the U.S. Census Bureau. She will be informing us on the process and importance of the census as well as the availability of upcoming census jobs.

This will be your first opportunity to meet our new board of Officers and to share any concerns or ideas you may have.

Members will also be able to pick up their **Thalia Civic League Computer Giveaway** tickets for the drawing on April 6 to win a Dell Optiplex 3070 Micro Form Factor PC.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings for fellowship, refreshments, and door prizes!

<b>Thalia Civic League Officers</b>
Mike Dougherty - President
Rick Boyles - Vice President
Rose Busetti - Secretary
Rona Marsh - Treasurer
Bruno Eddy - At Large Member
Michelle Exum - At Large Member
Gail Kynett - At Large Member



*Beach Engraving*  
*Inscription of Elegance*

**Laser Engraving  
Machine Engraving  
All Types of Surfaces  
Plaques -Name Tags  
Thermoses -Logos  
Family Crests  
Pictures**

**757-340-1110**  
The Damalas Shopping center  
1776 Laskin Road, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**MAKE A MOMENT LAST FOREVER**



**Pizza, Wings, and Beer**

Offering 5 crust options:  
traditional, wheat, gluten free, keto  
(4 net carbs), & cauliflower crust

Kids 10 and under eat FREE all day, every day!  
(children must be present, one free kid's meal per adult entrée)

**THALIA**  
Wayside Village Shoppes  
4223 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
757-321-2100

We thank our local businesses for their support!

# THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you wish to receive emails related to the civic league and ongoing events in Thalia. *Your email will only be used to send out information related to civic league business and matters of interest and will not be provided to anyone for any other purpose.*

E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

(Providing an email address is one of the two best ways to "stay in the loop"; <https://Thalianeighbors.com> is the other. )

**PLEASE CHECK** as applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign my household up as a member of the Thalia Neighborhood Watch Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me information on the Neighborhood Watch Program.

**I hereby apply for membership in the Thalia Civic League, Inc. and have enclosed my annual dues of \$10.00.**

**Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit this completed form along with a check or money order (made payable to the Thalia Civic League, Inc.) to the following address:**

Thalia Civic League, Inc.  
c/o Mike Dougherty, President  
631 Lynn Shores Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

**COMMENTS?** (Put them here - *(fill that white space!)*)