

Thalia Civic League Newsletter

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

Volume 29 Issue 2

PROMOTING CIVIC BETTERMENT

July 2021

Thalia Citizens: Informed and Involved

Website: <https://thalianeighbors.com>

Hot enough for you?

Now that we're back to the new normal - which is similar to the old normal but different - what next? We've been cooped up in our houses for months, we're tired of zooming and video chats and we're broke from ordering our meals via home delivery service. Welcome to the New World Order!!

But seriously, although we seem to be in a standoff with COVID, it is not absolute that we are *really* out of the woods at all. 2021 has been a strange year in all sorts of ways and is destined to become even stranger. Mother Earth does not feel well, and there are few signs this will change for the better. American citizens do not feel well - nationwide, communities are experiencing and pursuing social change, often divisively. And there are signs now that we may see a rerun of the 2020 COVID isolationism later this year. It adds up to this: by birthright, we all have been given the responsibility to make our little worlds - and thus collectively, the planet - safe, healthy and thriving. Every one of us is presented the opportunity to make a difference. Some seize the moment (leaders), some depend on others to motivate them (followers), and some simply wait and see (those who get out of the way and wait for the results of others.) What we do now will affect our children's children and beyond - if not now, why?

How do we make a difference, however small? Sometimes a review of basics is a good place to start.

1. **Be eco-conscious.** Be grateful you do not live on the left coast, facing outrageous wildfires and the attendant lack of services (including an alarmingly insufficient number of trained firefighters); the lack of sufficient potable water (think: how does food grow without water?); and dare I say, an "interesting" political scene. A great program to help develop a deeper understanding of local ecosystem and environment is the Lynnhaven River Now PEARL Homes Project <https://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/vb-residents/>. A nice goal for Thalia would be to receive designation as a PEARL Homes Neighborhood. It starts with just a few homes... Check out the website.
2. **Become aware of your surroundings.** Learn your immediate neighborhood and get to know your neighbors. A good practice to follow is to ensure that you know neighbors to the left and right, across the street (same three houses), and those behind your house. (*This is the basis for our Neighborhood Watch plan, which we will be trying to resurrect now that we can (mostly) speak face-to-face to our fellow neighbors. Now recruiting Watch Captains... Volunteers welcome.*) With all the turnover due to the real estate "bonanza" brought on by COVID, et al, we have plenty of new neighbors to meet, befriend, and help as we can.
3. **Help others.** We all have different skills and capabilities; sharing your skills to help others is both noble and kind. I have been reading stories recently about individuals who have received "nudges" from others and have blossomed into successful entrepreneurs; business and personal mentors; and even city volunteers. If you can help someone, do it! If you have been enabled by someone else, Pay It Forward!

That's enough of the bully pulpit for now - look inside for an article about bees (but not birds and bees), one about pedestrian safety, good-to-know law changes for bicyclists, and maybe even a joke or two.

Mike Dougherty, President



Virginia Beach is Doing the Right Thing

by Susan Porter, Thoroughgood Garden Club

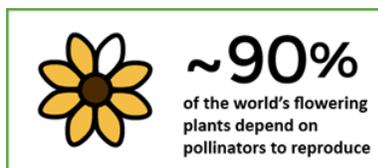
“It takes 556 worker bees travelling 55,000 miles visiting 2 million flowers to make one pound of honey.”

Virginia Beach officially became a certified *Bee City USA* affiliate on November 20, 2020 as one of only six Virginia cities to achieve this distinction. This certification was granted by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. *Bee City USA*'s mission is to “galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides”.

See Virginia Beach on the affiliate US map at: <https://beecityusa.org/current-bee-city-usa-affiliates/>

Pollinators' Impact

(bumblebees, sweat bees, mason bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds)



What the Virginia Beach Bee City Committee is Doing

The Virginia Beach *Bee City* committee is a partnership with the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach City Landscape Services. After drafting a resolution, the committee presented the proposal to City Council where, ultimately, the *Bee City* application was formally approved and adopted. They have committed to improving a healthy pollinator population by increasing bee habitats through landscaping efforts and through the reduction or elimination of pesticide use.



What You Can Do

- Visit beekeepers to become acquainted with their work.
- Set up a **bee** farm in your home garden, yard, terrace, etc.
- Have a **bee** breakfast containing honey and other hive products.
- Plant nectar-bearing flowers on balconies, terraces and gardens.
- Designate part of your yard for leaves, small branches, etc. providing shelter for native bees in the winter.

Sources & Resources

Vbgov.com: <https://www.vbgov.com/news/pages/selected.aspx?release=5054&title=have+you+heard+the+buzz%3F>

Virginia State Beekeepers Association <https://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/Information-&-Resources>

Bee City USA <https://www.beecityusa.org/>

Xerces Society <https://xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators/>

YouTube: “Bring Back the Pollinators” <https://youtu.be/chvXwNbs3SA>

TED Talks: “The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees”

https://www.ted.com/talks/emma_bryce_the_case_of_the_vanishing_honeybees?utm_campaign=teditspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=teditcomshare

PEDESTRIAN - and IMPORTANT

Now that individuals can do so, there is an increase in pedestrian "traffic" in Thalia. One can literally see residents (including entire families and pets) walk, run and bicycle in the neighborhood, at all hours of the day. However, there has been a spate of drivers that speed (over 25) throughout the Thalia neighborhoods with little regard for others.

Please slow down.

Speaking of speeding, Virginia Beach Police are cracking down on speeding drivers. There have already been 17 deadly crashes this year — compared to 24 for all of last year. Police are reminding citizens to slow down and "... drive sober to help those numbers — that would be great. We're also doing saturation patrols in high crash areas as well as checkpoints to try and remind people to drive safe and pay attention to the road," VB Police Officer Rachel Nash said.

These checkpoints start Saturday July 17, 2021.

"We're seeing a citywide issue of people driving too fast, people driving distracted, driving impaired," Nash said. "It's not worth your life, or someone else's life, just to get somewhere 30 seconds faster."

(Source: WAVY TV 10 News Walter Hildebrand July 9, 2021)

Some science:

- 1 At 25 mph, the average car will take 86 feet to stop
- 1 At 35 mph, the average car will take 136 feet to stop
- 1 At 45 mph, the number is 196.

All those who want to help stop speeding, raise your right foot!

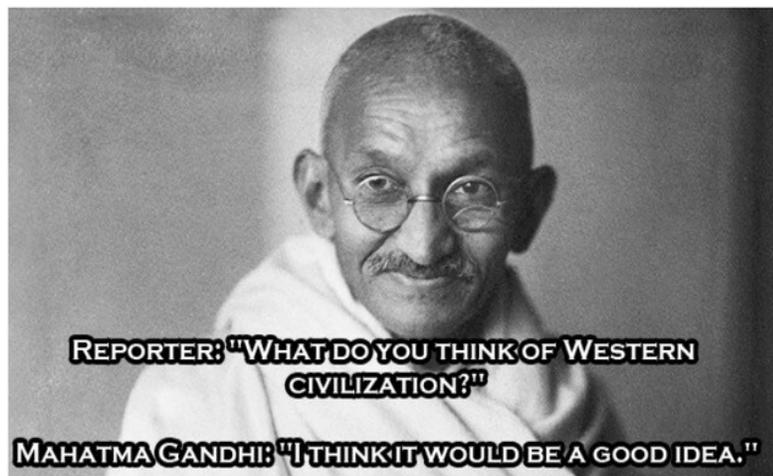
Byline: Rona Marsh, Treasurer

GARDEN CLUB REMINDER

The Thalia Garden Club is again selling "Thalia" fragrant daffodils to support Thalia Elementary student reading programs. Order a minimum of 5 (or all 500) for \$1 each. Contact Ellie Kreassig at (757) 340-0167.

IMPORTANT LIFE RULES

- 1 ["Don't ever send a man out window shopping. He'll come back carrying a window."](#)
A Wife's Little Instruction Book (a real book)
- 1 [Line on a warning label on a portable stroller: "Caution: Remove infant before folding for storage."](#)
- 1 [Don't worry about the world coming to an end today: it's already tomorrow in Australia.](#)



BIKE SAFETY - NEW LAWS (? And challenges?)

New bicycle laws went into place statewide July1. Now everyone has to understand them.

A new set of laws has changed the dynamics of the battle for road space between automobiles and bicycles. The Virginia General Assembly passed two new laws aimed at improving bicycle safety across the commonwealth.

See here: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?212+ful+CHAP0462>

Motorists will be *required* (emphasis added) to change lanes, when safe to do so, to pass a bicyclist with a margin of three feet, even if that means crossing over a double yellow line. Comment: this is likely to cause challenges in Thalia (I have experienced this myself a couple of times now).

Bicyclists will now be allowed to ride two abreast in a lane. Previously, bicyclists were allowed to ride side by side in a single lane but had to move into a single line when a car is trying to pass. Bicyclists need keep in mind that not all roads or areas in Thalia lend themselves to two abreast riding, and they will not win in a battle with an anxious driver speeding through the neighborhood. If what I have seen in recent experience is an indicator, I suspect the "move" portion of the rider's responsibility may be considered "optional".

Motorists need to be highly aware of this change; here are a few tips from the Fairfax County Police:

- Ø Avoid distractions while driving. Don't forget that texting while operating a motor vehicle is now a primary offense.
- Ø Stop and look in both directions before turning right at a red light.
- Ø Pay close attention to your surroundings and look for anyone who may be crossing the street when approaching an intersection.
- Ø Use caution and double-check mirrors before making a right-hand turn.
- Ø Don't park or drive in bike lanes if they are present.
- Ø Check your side and rear view mirrors for bicyclists before opening your door if you're parking on a roadway.

I guess it wouldn't hurt to remind those of you who are bicyclists of the helmet law...

Byline: MD

KIBBLES AND BITS

Our next "live meeting" is scheduled for September 20, 2021 at 7:00PM at New Life Church. We will be presenting our annual Political Forum, this time focusing on the candidates for the 82nd District seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. Two candidates are running, Mrs. Anne Ferrell Tata and Mr. Scott Flax, Esq. Both parties have tentatively agreed to attend. Our potential Moderator has not yet confirmed and is working out a schedule.

Doug Douglas, President of The **Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations**, has reached out to all civic leagues and homeowners associations of record with a **request to provide input** to the following:

"The VBCCO Board of Directors has, since the restrictions imposed upon gatherings of the member organizations, recognized the changes in the organization and functioning of neighborhoods and the greater access to city government that the Internet (including mobile apps and social media) provides. The resulting recognition and discussions have raised some questions:

1. How can the VBCCO best serve the many civic leagues and managed homeowner associations, given the changes in the forms of leadership within the city?
2. Is there still a need for the VBCCO to continue to serve our neighbors and city government?

This link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUmMYzifClgtdw3gfgqK8Lusz4UBH7KcjoGDhzjNwcJhwTOg/formResponse> is to a survey sent out by the VBCCO to all civic league POCs for input. Feel free to use the questions to frame your responses to us, or send it directly to the VBCCO. (The organizational information is not required for an "individual resident input".)

THAT'S ALL FOLKS! SEE YOU SOON!

Thalia Civic League, Inc.

JOIN THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Household Dues: \$20.00 – 2021 Calendar Year (through 12/31/21)

Member name(s) _____

Street address _____

PRIMARY Phone _____ **ALTERNATE** _____

e-mail for Civic League contact _____

- £ I wish 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.
- £ Sign up my household as a member of the Thalia Neighborhood Watch Program.
- £ Please send information about the Thalia Neighborhood Watch Program.

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 (you can drop it off at the milk box on the front porch)
(757) 498 2857 (RECORDER)

OPINIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR COMMENTS?

ALL INPUTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE TCL BOARD