

# Thalia Civic League Newsletter

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE THALIA CIVIC LEAGUE, INC.

Volume 29 Issue 1

PROMOTING CIVIC BETTERMENT

April 2021

Thalia Citizens: Informed and Involved

Website: <https://thalianeighbors.com>

Hello Thalia neighbors, I hope all of you are staying well. We are sending out this paper newsletter on a one-shot basis to let everyone in the neighborhood know “We're still here!” (The website is active and gets ad-hoc updates.)

I am pretty sure that everyone would like a re-do of 2020, so – let us try that in 2021! To that end, your civic league officers unanimously voted to extend all 2020 memberships through 2021. If you're not a current member, the application for 2021 is handily included with this newsletter. In addition, we are dusting the cobwebs off the planning book and looking at developing a Fall meeting and events plan. (Potentially - it depends on so many things these daze...). Stay tuned via our website or occasional e-mail blast for details.

The Board has made a motion to initiate an emergency 1-year term extension for all Officers and Board Members, due to the pandemic. Please see page 3 for details.

**Neighborhood Notes** (anonymous inputs from neighbors on general interest subjects)

As the weather becomes more conducive to walking in the neighborhood, please be mindful if you are a pet owner and/or walker. When publicly walking a dog in Virginia Beach, remember that it should be leashed and be wearing the appropriate tags. Do not allow your dog to tear up someone's front lawn in a show of dog masculinity. As well, it is important to remember to immediately clean up the waste after your pet does his/her doody. Take a baggie with you to pick it up and *please dispose of it properly*.

- By taking simple steps to clean up after our pets, we contribute to the beautification of our community and to the elimination of nuisance and health risks. Thanks!

The pandemic has been good for home projects and remodels. A neighbor advises, based on personal experience, to check everything twice (references, licenses, city permits, material lists, etc.) to ensure a complete understanding of the proposed project and the capabilities of the contractor. Expect a written and detailed contract from a properly licensed and insured contractor. Most will not ask for any money up front but may ask for “draws” against an agreed percentage of work completion. Never sign a contract without resolving all project questions. Always require a completion schedule and remedies (cost reduction, etc.) for preventable schedule deviations and delays. Caveat emptor!

Remember, this is OUR neighborhood! The Civic League works to represent us ALL!

**PARTING THOUGHT: If you have a family that loves you, a few good friends, food on the table, and a roof over your head...you are richer than you think.**

Mike Dougherty, President

## Thalia Garden Club Notes

Hello to all the gardeners out there! Come and join Thalia Garden Club! Founded in 1955, we are a small club and a member of the Virginia Beach Council of Garden Clubs. We had been meeting once a month at various member homes and places of interest. Because of the pandemic, everything has changed, including our meetings.

We are hoping to greet springtime as a group together again; most of us have had one or two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. We like to go out to eat often, and we speak to each other on the phone – we are not much into email or Facebook.

Following our sell-out second Annual Thalia Daffodil Bulb Sale last fall, we plan to do so again this year in September. Bulbs are \$1 each, minimum 5 bulbs per order; you may call me to pre-order. We thank you for your support - the proceeds from this fund-raiser go to Thalia Elementary School for the purchase of books for the children.

## Ellie Kreassig,

President, Thalia Garden Club  
(757) 340-0167



Fragrant Daffodil "Thalia"

## There's an App for That!

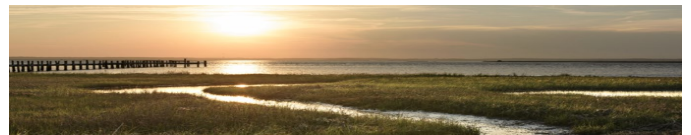
The City provides numerous mobile apps to connect citizens to services. Here are just a few of the handier ones:

**VBWorks** is a one-stop-shop solution to reporting a problem. Whether it's a pot hole, a streetlight out, graffiti, flooding, or problems that are safety hazards or eyesores, VB Works *works!* The app uses your GPS to identify your location, provides a list of appropriate issues and allows you to add a photo to your service request.

**VB Park Finder** lets you search over 200 VB parks by name, proximity, and/or amenities. Results display on a map as well as a listing.

**Overdrive** allows Library members to read e-books, listen to audiobooks, and borrow magazines from the VB library.

Go to <https://www.vbgov.com/mobile-apps/Pages/default.aspx> to get info on all the City of Virginia Beach mobile apps.



## CLEAN THE BAY WEEK

As we see daily, litter happens and accumulates. Because of restrictions on gatherings, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation offers us the chance to "*teamup and clean up*" over the course of an *entire week*, May 31 through June 6, 2021. Anyone out there wish to join in on the fun? We will collect and weigh trash from both street-side and waterside locations – the team with the biggest haul in Thalia gets bragging rights and a free cookout on our back deck! For information and to sign up, call Gail Kynett at (757) 340-4079.

## 1-Question Survey

The COVID pandemic has severely impacted the operation of the Thalia Civic League. During the 3/1/21 virtual Board Meeting, a suggestion was made to institute a one-year (ONLY) Emergency Extension of the term of office for current Officers/At-Large Board Members. This would make the end of the extended term 12/31/2022 versus 12/31/2021 for the current term. Rather than do this unilaterally, we asked for your input to our one-question survey, accessible via the link below.

### Emergency Extension of Term of Office - Thalia Civic League Officers and At-Large Board Members

<https://us4.list-manage.com/survey?u=e0035ae06affdd679d7ab5c2d&id=6fcd660923>

As of 3/24, 53 have responded; 50 have supported the extension, three have opposed it.

Thanks for your continuing support!

Let us know what YOU can do to help us improve OUR community and maintain our Thalia lifestyle!



## Utility Spraying Update

Dominion Energy recently applied a mixture of herbicides to stop the growth of vines up utility poles. Surprisingly, this is the greatest source of power outages, second only to storm damage. A limited, low volume application on volunteer brush or vegetation (growing in the easement only) is done periodically to prevent future problems for the citizens who rely on electricity – that's all of us. The program is registered with the EPA and the VA DEQ. (Information on the spraying program can be obtained with assistance from the civic league as needed.)

### Trash Talking - Blue Bins: Do Drop In

It has been rewarding to see so many citizens using their curbside recycling bins properly this year. Thank you! Continue to drop in collapsed clean and dry cardboard boxes, newspaper, empty and rinsed metal cans, glass bottles and jars - all go in the blue bin. However - there is confusion about appropriate **plastics**. We all have heard different stories about what is accepted - here is the latest scoop:

**YES!** Plastic bottles and jugs with a neck or pouring spout, empty and rinsed.

**NO!!!** Plastic bags of any kind, clamshell containers, Styrofoam, greasy food containers, pet food bags, scrap metal, diapers, *or anything NOT "YES!"*

(More recycling info is available, below)

<https://askhrgreen.org/gtk-gtd/recycling-lookup/virginia-beach/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfxuYfXEDzA>

# 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 (*drop it off in the milk box on the porch*)  
(757) 498 2857 (RECORDER)**

**OPINIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR COMMENTS?**

**ALL INPUTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE TCL BOARD**