

## **Pembroke Meadows Civic League**

### **General Membership Meeting**

**May 18, 2023**

Jackie Savage called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. She introduced the first guest speaker, Celine Vanneste, master gardener.

#### **First Guest Speaker – Celine Vanneste**

Celine Vanneste gave us information about community gardens and exploring one in our neighborhood. Community gardens provide us with more time in nature which is sometimes missed today. The Nimmo community garden in Virginia Beach was started by the church. The yearly fee is \$50.00 and they provide guidance, tools, and mulch from April to October. Another type of garden is one where people freely come and work together on a big plot. In a giving garden, volunteers help produce and share food for people they support. The Fort Story community garden produces food for everyone on the base. There are many reasons to build a community garden such as the opportunity to meet people, produce food to share and learn about food and gardening skills. They also allow us to reconnect with nature, provide a habitat for wildlife and support biodiversity. They are simple to start with volunteers gathering materials, building the garden, planting and harvesting. Minimum requirements are raised beds, soil, wood chips, compost, gardening equipment and plants. A water source is also necessary. Many of these things can be made with inexpensive supplies or donated things. Celine Vanneste's phone number will be put on the website for those interested in building a community garden or needing more information. Jackie Savage will see if the city owned land in the neighborhood could be used.

#### **Second Guest Speaker – Mike Bender**

Jackie Savage introduced our second guest speaker, Mike Bender, from McDonald Garden Center. He gave us tips on how to landscape your property. He said to start with the front, measure and do one bed at a time. You should make a layout plan, select a style and create a budget for materials and labor. Also necessary is a site assessment such as how much sun there is (is it in morning or afternoon) because you need to get the right plants for the right location. Also important is learning what kind of soil you have and how to amend it to your plants. Watering needs should also be taken into account. You need to pick favorite colors – two or three - as repetition of color and shape is more pleasing to the eye. There are also many different types of landscape styles such as cottage, classic, Victorian, tropical, Japanese, Zen, etc. You should select no more than ten plants and determine how you want to space them. Plants should be grouped in triangles with the same type of plants together. Mr. Bender mentioned compost and perlite as good soil amenders and hollytone fertilizer to feed the plants. Mr. Bender left brochures with information on landscaping styles and different types of gardens with the accompanying plants

### **Business Meeting –**

Jackie Savage called our regular meeting to order and asked if there were any questions on the minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve them with all in favor.

Carol Moore gave the Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2023:

Checking Account - \$20,061.14    Savings Account - \$60,758.10    Total - \$80,819.24

Expenditures were the Easter Egg Hunt - \$326.68 and the Movie Night - \$521.85 which was used to purchase 67 tickets for 24 families and this may be a few more than last year.

### **Pool Report –**

Tim Roy gave information on the pool. It is opening on Memorial Day and a food truck will be there on one day during the weekend. The posts have been stained and they are setting up the concession stand. There is a temporary step for the diving board.

### **Pet Lost and Found –**

There is information on the website.

### **Pet Waste Station –**

Steve and Marge Wynne are checking them every Tuesday. More people are using them as they are filling up faster. They ran out of small bags and the new ones purchased are bigger and work better. One station is at the park and the other is on Pembroke Boulevard by one of the benches. If someone wants to see another one put up, let the Civic League know. On July 1, we can request more.

### **Update on Yard Sale – May 20**

Cheryl Douglas gave us information for the upcoming yard sale. It is on Saturday, May 20, from 8 am to 2 pm. There are 24 participants on the map with additional addresses on the electronic one. Cheryl Douglas provided us with some quick tips for success – items should be in good condition and put like items and prices together. The sale will be advertised on social media and in the printed newspaper as well as Pilot Online. Also try to have 20 to 50 one dollar bills and put the best items near the street side. You could also bundle things and have a free box. The rain date is Saturday, May 27. Margo Savage will pick up donated things if you put them at the curb.

### **Tides Game – June 3**

Cheryl Douglas can take signups through Monday, May 22. There are two ADA seats available. The tickets are free to Civic League members and are \$12.50 for their friends. It is on June 3 at 6:35 p.m.

### **National Night Out – August 1**

Jackie Savage mentioned that we are looking for people to be on the committee and we need a committee chair. It will be at the pool and there will be food and people can bring sides. We are currently looking for a balloon person or two and if anyone has ideas for things for kids to do, let us know. Suggestions were coloring books and large yard games. We will ask the mounted police to come out. We will also ask the pool about lights for the parking lot. There will be a newsletter in July.

### **Golf Cart Committee –**

Brandon Stokes and Joseph Savage-Morrison are Co-Chairs. They are sending a letter to the city requesting that our neighborhood become a Golf Cart Community. The city will let us know when someone will come to a Civic League meeting to explain the program. There is a process that needs to take place before the neighborhood can become one.

### **Information on Shrubs/Trees Blocking Corners –**

Tim Roy said that Traffic Engineering is responsible for shrubs and trees that block corners. If the homeowner does not take care of the issue, the city will do it and the homeowner will be charged an expensive price.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.