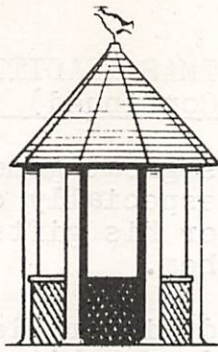


# Pembroke Civic



# Meadows League

## News Letter

December 8, 1978

### CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The evergreen tree became part of our Christmas celebration early in the 16th century. Martin Luther, according to legend, was so impressed with the beauty of the stars shining through the snow-laden boughs, that he cut a small fir and took it home. He set up the tree in his house and decorated it with candles to symbolize for his children the star-filled sky over Bethlehem.

Holly, with its brilliant green leaves and bright red berries was revered by ancient people as a symbol of eternal life. Because it bore fruit in winter, it was regarded as one of the most highly favored plants of nature.

With the spread of Christianity, holly became associated with the promise of everlasting life. A German legend claims Christ's crown of thorns was plaited from holly; that before the Crucifixion the plant bore white berries, afterward its berries were blood red.

Hanging mistletoe is a pagan custom which has survived to become part of our Christmas holiday traditions. Druid priests cut mistletoe with a golden sickle and caught it in a white cloth before it could touch the ground. It was then distributed to their followers to hang in their homes. Its magical powers were supposed to bring happiness, romance and peace.

The wassail bowl which we associate with Christmas celebrations comes from an ancient Saxon drinking custom. The medieval wassail bowl was chosen for its size and beauty and was ornamented with arcs of evergreen over the top.

Christmas carolers in old England often carried wassail bowls with them when they went caroling.

Santa Claus, the jolly old elf with red cheeks and a white beard, is the American derivation of old St. Nicholas, a wealthy bishop of Myra in Asia Minor.

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS  
(Continued)

St. Nicholas was known for his great generosity in distributing gifts and money to the poor, especially children. He preferred to disguise himself and deliver his gifts after dark so that no one would know who had left them.

In Holland, Nicholas is called Sinter Klaas. Dressed as a bishop, with miter and crosier, he rides a white horse.

The Dutch brought their holiday traditions with them to America. Gradually Sinter Klaas became known to other nationalities in the new country and visited an increasing number of children each Christmas.

It wasn't until 1882, when Dr. Clement C. Moore wrote a Christmas poem to entertain his children, that our present-day Santa Claus was born - in "A Visit from Saint Nicholas".

"THIS DAY SHALL CHANGE ALL GRIEFS AND QUARRELS INTO LOVE."

William Shakespeare

"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

The Pembroke Meadows/Shores Civic League would like to wish everyone happiness this Holiday Season and throughout the coming year.



JOE CANADA SPEAKS AT NOVEMBER  
CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING.

The Honorable Joe Canada, State Senator, 8th Senatorial District, City of Virginia Beach, addressed the Civic League at the scheduled November meeting. The subject of Mr. Canada's address was "Proposed Tax Limitation Legislation", which Mr. Canada is sponsoring. His presentation was very informative and prompted a stimulating question-and-answer period at the close of his address.

The following press release of October 18th encompasses the key remarks Mr. Canada made and are herewith provided:

"VIRGINIA BEACH---Justice John Marshall in the case of McCulloch vs. Maryland, in 1819, stated: "The power to tax involves the power to destroy."

Taxes are going up on all levels, year after year, at a pace faster than the growth of personal income. People are not preparing for a tax revolt; they are in the midst of one. People are angry and they want to do something about the rising costs of government. Tax limitation is a time whose come. For that reason, I am announcing today a committee called "LESS GOVERNMENT", and this committee is composed of people from all walks of life and from the various spectrums of the economic scale. The committee will be composed of the following members: Ronald Graham, Carolyn Rockefeller, Linda Truitt, Carroll Kennedy, Melvin M. Seay, Rev. Crews, Betty Romulus, Ray Wood, Cheri Lewis, Dr. Milton Saunders, and Sandi Lahouchuc. People serving on this committee are: a minister, doctor, labor, real estate, homemaker, teacher, building contractor, court reporter, secretary.

The purpose of the committee will be to start a petition drive to gather signatures of voters who are interested in trying to limit the size of government. These petitions will be at the supermarkets and all over the place, and they will be at the polls on Election Day.

Back in 1900, government on all levels took only 3% of the taxpayers personal income for all of its activities. By 1929, that percentage had gone up to 12%, and by 1950, it had risen to 20%. Today, government takes at least 44% of all income, and by 1985, it is projected that it will exceed 50%. Think of that. By 1985, if the trend continues, we will work more for the government than we do for ourselves. At present, according to Milton Friedman, a noted Economist, the average taxpayer works January, February, March, April and most of May just to pay their taxes.

The Tax Limitation Amendment that we are trying to gain support for will do the following:

1. It will force the state to live within its means, and the amendment specifically states that the state would limit the power of spending at the present level which is 6.5% of the personal income from all sources as defined and reported by the United States Department of Commerce.

2. It would require the state to continue distribution to the local government to at least the present level and

would prohibit the state from mandating programs on local governments unless financing is provided. This will prevent any real estate tax increase, as a result of this program.

3. It will also have an emergency provision which would allow the 6.5% to be increased by two-thirds vote of each body of the General Assembly, but this would only be for one year and would be designated to take care of any emergency situation which may come up.

4. It would insure that the obligations on our bond indebtednesses are met on time and, therefore, would not have a negative impact on our bond rating.

This LESS GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE is designed to get our petitions out and to get public support for this concept. The Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce is working on the same thing and I am willing to combine forces with them to see that something can be implemented in Virginia."

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Canada.

#### TENACIOUS TED TALKS ABOUT CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY.

As the Yule approaches, it is appropriate that we consider safety precautions regarding Yule trees as well as the multitude of other delightful events and chores which constitute our check list for making a Joyful Holiday Season.

Christmas trees are of two varieties in this day and age. Those which are directly provided by nature, through a few middlemen, and those of the

artificial kind. It is essential that both contain properties which are fire-retardant. Fresh trees may or may not be treated prior to purchase with a fire-retardant chemical. Upon purchase, check the label and inquire of the selling agency as to whether his has been so protected.

Fire departments, military, as well as civilian, will spray trees free of charge with a fire-retardant chemical to afford a measure of fire protection. Artificial trees should have an Underwriter's certification indicating they have met the fire code for fire prevention.

Prior to decorating, inspect the tree lights to insure that there are no frayed electrical cords, the light sockets are in good condition, and the electrical plug is in order. Discard those which have seen their useful life for a catastrophic fire is not worth stretching poor equipment "one more year." Take care in hanging ornaments which are made of combustible material. It is preferred that no combustible material be hung on the tree; but where necessary, do not permit them to come in contact with light bulbs. Make certain gifts under the tree are clear of any low positioned lights.

Ornaments should be in good condition. Those made of glass which are cracked should be discarded to prevent any injuries. Small ornaments should be out of reach of children who may be tempted to "taste" them and choke. Where small children have immediate access to the

tree, make certain that the ornaments are non-toxic.

The tree should be properly mounted in its stand to prevent its falling, particularly where children may tug on the tree.

It's nice to leave the tree lights illuminated when you are on an "outing", but such a practice may find you viewing a flaming home or a home of ashes when you return.

Take time to check the above! Let's make Christmas a time we all can enjoy. Be jolly and deck those "halls" with boughs of Holly!



#### OLD DONATION PARKWAY

As a result of the public hearing held on November 13, 1978, before City Council concerning changes to the Master Street and Highway Plan, City Council has referred this matter to the Planning Commission. On January 9, 1979, a further public hearing will be held before members of the Planning Commission concerning revisions to the City's Master Building Plan of which the Master Street and Highway Plan is a part. It is expected that the Planning Commission's recommendations together with any ordinances for changes will be considered and voted upon by City Council in February.

Meanwhile - we need your support now to influence the members of the Planning Commission and City Council members. A massive letter-writing campaign by all residents to members of the Planning Commission and Council members can help in removing Old Donation Parkway from the master plan.

The Civic League's official position is contained in the text of the presentation

made to City Council which appears on the page following. Using your own words, PLEASE WRITE TO THE BELOW-LISTED PEOPLE BEFORE JANUARY 3, 1979, requesting Old Donation Parkway be deleted from the Master Street and Highway Plan. ALSO PLAN ON ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 9TH, AROUND NOON - details will follow in a separate flyer.

#### City Council Members:

Hon. Patrick L. Standing, Mayor  
Municipal Center  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23456

Hon. Clarence A. Holland, M.D.  
2017 Pleasure House Road  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23455

Hon. George A. Ferrell  
1537 Salem Road  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23456

Hon. John A. Baum  
6465 Craggs Causeway  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23457

Hon. J. Curtis Payne  
P.O. Box 6172  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23456

Hon. Donald W. Merrick  
1460 Laurel View Drive  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23451

Hon. Meyera Oberndorf  
5404 Challedon Drive  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23462

Hon. F. Reid Ervin  
115 77th Street  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23451

Hon. J. Henry McCoy, Jr., D.D.S.  
1040 Henley Landing  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23462

Hon. Barbara Henley  
3513 Charity Neck Road  
Va. Beach, Va. 23457

Hon. Roger L. Riggs  
915 Goldsboro Avenue  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23451

City Planning Commission Members:

R. Dean Lee (Chairman)  
210 40th Street, P.O.B. 49  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23458

Everett Irby (Vice-Chairman)  
505 Susan Constant Drive  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23451

Herman R. Bonney  
1661 Princess Anne Rd.  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23456

William H. Cleaves  
4669 South Blvd.  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23452

James E. Snyder, Sr.  
4429 Blackwater Road  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23457

Samuel Martinette  
2348 Bayville Road  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23455

James L. McKnown, Jr.  
2727 North Landing Rd.  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23462

Haskell E. Perrell  
4833 Old Harris Lane  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23455

Mrs. Charles Purrington  
1260 Tanager Trail  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23451

Mrs. Nancy Creech  
c/o Ayers Insulation & Supply Co., Inc.  
5768 Arrowhead Drive  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23462

Milton T. Holland  
601 15th Street  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23451

J. Harry Mote  
5132 Hillcrest Lane  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23462

Curtis R. Catron  
4604 Tony Lema Lane  
Va. Beach, Virginia 23462

OLD DONATION PARKWAY

The following is the Civic League's position provided at the Public Hearing of the Virginia Beach City Council on 13 November:

"TEXT OF SPEECH PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL OF VA. BEACH

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO MASTER STREET AND HIGHWAY PLAN NOVEMBER 13, 1978

PRESENTED BY JOSEPH AVOLI AS SANCTIONED BY CIVIC LEAGUE OF PEMBROKE MEADOWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Mayor, Honorable Council Members, Mr. Hanbury: My name is Joseph Avoli. I am a registered voter residing in Va. Beach and am speaking on behalf of the Civic League of Pembroke Meadows and Shores and over 600 households in our community.

We are OPPOSED to the construction of Old Donation Parkway for the following reasons:

1. The parkway would split our community physically - causing a major safety hazard to our children who would be forced to cross a major traffic artery to get to the existing elementary school and adjacent playground. They would also be forced to travel along a heavy traffic road to get to our community park which itself may be destroyed by the parkway. And, they would be forced to cross this major thoroughfare to get to our community swimming pool. The traffic would also pose a hazard to all residents - adult and child alike - just to visit friends as we freely do in safety now.

2. The traffic would create air and noise pollution in a community now proud of its quiet, clean residential environment.

3. We are concerned that this roadway would mean a potential higher incidence of crime and vandalism by virtue of easier access to and from our community from both directions.

OLD DONATION PARKWAY (Con't.)

4. Residential property values along major traffic arteries lose their appeal to many homebuyers and decrease in value. This would also decrease the residential property tax base.

5. We also fear the additional hazards to our children during construction of such a parkway, which, as proposed, would take several years to complete the phase through our community. The Capital Improvements Program now shows financing for construction of two bridges. This means heavy construction equipment moving through existing residential areas - a definite hazard to residents, especially children.

6. We are opposed to the additional tax burden which would be placed not only on us, but on all citizens of Va. Beach - for a road very few really want or need - that serves no real purpose for the people who live near it - that leads to or from nowhere - and who's main purpose as originally proposed has disappeared.

In conclusion, we feel the construction of Old Donation Parkway will actually be harmful to those along its path who may originally have been thought of as being helped by it. Old Donation Parkway would destroy the character and integrity of our community and be a detriment to our way of life. The residents of P.M. & P.S. respectfully **IMPLORE** you to **DELETE** Old Donation Parkway from the Master Street and Highway Plan. Thank you for your consideration."

At this writing, Old Donation Parkway has been referred to Committee by the City Council.

BLOCK SECURITY

TEN PER CENT HAVE ATTENDED  
BLOCK SECURITY MEETING

Approximately ten per cent of the home addresses in Pembroke Meadows and Shores have been represented at a Block Security meeting.

Ten good neighbors hosted Block Security meetings in 1978. The Civic League expresses profound appreciation to those good people. They are as follows:

The Riccio Family  
The Romska Family  
The Brotman Family  
The McIntire Family  
The Caverly Family  
The Gunter Family  
The Berger Family  
The Caffery Family  
The Avoli Family  
The Norton Family

A Block Security meeting is a two-hour seminar held in the home of the host family. A uniformed police officer will lead the discussion. Topics covered include:

Identification of personal property.

Increasing home security.

The need to watch out for one another.

If you would like to host a Block Security meeting, or are just interested in getting some more information, call Robert Brotman at 497-0565.

THANKS SANTA!

We wish to thank Santa and his helpers for visiting the homes in our community. There were many smiles and unbelieving eyes as Santa personally entered into homes. How lucky we are to have Santa break into his busy schedule to visit with our children. Thanks to the elphs who took all the requests by phone via the North Pole, and of course let's not forget those raindeer who took Santa around to the houses.



GIVE A GIRL SCOUT CALENDAR - There are Girl Scout Calendars for sale. Give a calendar for Christmas. Will deliver. Call: 497-8589 or 497-1158.



A REMINDER!!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS  
DECORATIONS CONTEST

Each year the Pembroke Meadows Civic League and Garden Club co-sponsor a contest for best outdoor Christmas Decorations. Categories for this year's judging are as follows:

1. Doors/Entranceways - Only doors and entrances using fresh and/or dried materials will be considered in this category. Accessories are permitted. (We encourage the use of a lighting effect; otherwise your doorway could be overlooked.)
2. Novelty - This would include light-hearted, whimsical designs which would appeal to children and young people.
3. Overall - This would be best overall exhibit comprising any Holiday theme.

A ten dollar (\$10.00) cash award is given in each category. We hope many of you will be inspired to participate in this event. It is an occasion when you can show us how creative and interesting you can make your home appear for this joyous season of the year.

We encourage simplicity by carrying out one theme or color scheme. Often times the simple lighting effect of a spot light or similar lighting can transform an uninspiring decoration into a come-alive Christmas card look. What nicer way to express to your neighbors and friends "Happy Holiday Season"!

Judging will be done on December 26th or 27th, weather permitting, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. If you have any questions, please call 497-2057.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The calendar year 1979 membership drive commenced on November 26th, with a letter to each resident in the Pembroke Meadows/Shores. A copy of that letter is also included as page 9 of this Newsletter along with the member application form. In addition to the solicitation of funds for the Civic League, the form

is used to update the directory. Please expedite your reply using the form so that we can both terminate our membership drive with 100% participation and get an addendum to our directory printed and distributed.

For those who are new to the community and do not have a directory, one can be obtained from Dan Folta, 4304 St. Martin Ct., 499-4350 or Jack Enoch, 665 Whitechapel Drive, 499-5658.

THANKS AND FAREWELL TO A NEIGHBOR.

Bruce Bisson was called away by the Lord in November. Bruce exemplified community pride by his unyielding efforts in maintaining the median in Whitechapel Circle as a showplace, from the beginning of his residence in the circle.

We in the community extend our appreciation to Bruce's efforts in bettering our community through his personal high standards of friendship and devotion. We also express sympathy to his family and share the sorrow at his calling.

