

PO Box 68052, zip 23471

November 1998

## CIVIC LEAGUE OF PEMBROKE MEADOWS, INC.

Pembroke Meadows, Pembroke Shores,  
and Pembroke Shores Townhomes

CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



# ★ THIS IS YOUR CIVIC LEAGUE ★

In our first newsletter, March 1969, our Civic League President wrote: *"What we hope to create here in Pembroke Meadows is a League which is listened to and respected within the greater community. A League which represents all of the different individuals living within its boundaries. A League tolerant of all the divergent opinions within its boundaries and capable of accomodation to these views with the needs of the community. A League which will help to obtain and protect a decent community for our families to reside within. In other words, a total organization that will absorb the interest of the whole community, yet work to solve the problems of the individuals within."*

## ★ What do you want for your \$8 annual dues?

- An organization that can effectively communicate our needs and problems to the City?
- A forum to discuss community interests and problems as they arise?
- Someone to get the streets surfaced, potholes fixed, drains cleaned, signs repaired, etc.?
- Have the median strip, gazebo and common grounds maintained?
- The monthly Newsletter and the neighborhood Directory?
- Someone to watch over the park, lakes and pathways?
- Our local Recreation Center cared for and maintained?
- Organization of community "fun" events (Halloween Walk, Christmas Party, etc.?)
- The neighborhood Pet Lost and Found service?
- The Neighborhood Watch Program for our security and safety?
- City representation and input for new road projects, parks, playgrounds, planning, bike paths, etc.?

**The Civic League** is not a clique or small group of people who enjoy sitting around trying to control the lives of others...the Civic League exists to help this community of 610 homes we represent remain a nice, pleasant and SAFE area to live and raise our families. (I personally waited months for a home to become available and moved here 12 years ago for this very reason).



**In order to keep a viable, functioning Civic League**, more participants are needed. The offices for the Board of Directors are nearly slated for the upcoming year; however, more volunteers are needed to help with various committees (Buildings and Grounds, Welcoming, Lakes and Waterways, Block Security.) If you do nothing more than come to the meetings and see what is going on and share your opinions, that would help.



**We will be electing new Officers on Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 PM  
PLEASE COME TO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AND BE A PART OF THIS  
30-YEAR-OLD TRADITION!!!**

★ **DECLINE IN NEIGHBORHOOD APPEARANCE/VALUES.** What can or should we do about it? See article inside.

★ **GET RID OF THAT EYESORE & GET A TAX DEDUCTION AT SAME TIME.** See story inside.

★ **PLANS TO UPGRADE LAKE MEADOWS PARK & PLAYGROUND.** See inside story!

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## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 1998

**Pembroke Meadows Civic League/Pembroke Meadows Elementary School PTA** presents fund for all ages! This year, the Civic League will combine our efforts with a school PTA fundraiser. The activities will start with the PTA-sponsored **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** from 9 a.m. to 10:30. (Tickets for breakfast must be purchased ahead of time at the school.) While visiting with **SANTA** your picture can be taken. There is a fee for this and the pictures will be developed while you are there for you to take home.

**Starting at 10:30 to 12:30** the **CIVIC LEAGUE** members will be on hand with lots of craft-making supplies and decorations for the Christmas Tree will be made. We'll all join in the singing of carols. When the decorations are made, the children will decorate the tree.

While the children are busy making decorations, the parents may go down the hall to the Crafters Show (local crafters will be showing and selling their art creations).

**If you are not participating in the Breakfast with Santa, please bring the children out to decorate the tree. This is a tradition that has been carried on for years and put on by your Civic League.**

Lets combine our efforts for a fund day in the Pembroke Meadows Elementary School Cafeteria. It's guaranteed to put us all in the Christmas spirit! **COME JOIN IN THE HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AND LET THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS BRING OUT THE KID IN YOU!**

We could use some helping hands. If you would like to be a helper, call **Belinda Nash** at 490-2504.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO RESIDENTS** of the following streets whose 1998 Civic League membership topped 50%: Abbey Court, Cambria Street, Hudgins Court, Severn Court, St. Luke Street and St. Martin Drive. Kudos, also, to those streets with at least 33 1/3% membership: Abbey Arch, Drury Circle, Hudgins Drive, Liverpool Court, Sheffield Drive, St. Clements Road, St. James Circle, St. James Drive, St. John Court, Temple Court and Whitechapel Drive.

**GREAT JOB!** Thanks to you and to **EVERY RESIDENT** who has generously paid annual dues for 1998. It takes a lot of work to keep a Civic League active and effective, and it takes some money, too. But even if it is not possible for you to pay annual dues at this time, please get involved by attending the general meetings on the third Thursday of the month. We would all love to see you there.

Last, remember that all dues sent in are now credited to 1999. Mail your \$8 check, payable to Civic League of Pembroke Meadows, Inc. (includes Shores and Townhomes) to PO Box 68052, Zip 23471.

**Loretta Watkins**  
Mem. Chairman

### FABULOUS MARCHING CAVALIERS OF PAHS

earned two awards of excellent and superior in the annual Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) on Saturday, Oct. 31. Later, at the Salem HS Beach Classic Competition, the band took the highest award given, the **GRAND CHAMPION AWARD**. To do this, they had to beat out not only their own class (3A), but also every other class including the huge class 4A bands. Not only did our PAHS band receive higher marks than their local arch rival, Kempsville HS, but they ranked "higher" than the band that is considered to be the "best band in Virginia," Herndon. No small feat!

Competition awards are based on a number of things not always fully understood by the public. The difficulty of the music, the number of formations made by the band and the accuracy of the marching. Way to go! We are proud of you! Members of the band who live in our subdivision include Erica Schweitzer, Laurie Schweitzer, Holly Dixon, Carolyne McGonnell and Megan Watkins.

(Submitted by the totally unbiased mother of Drum Line Captain Megan Watkins, Loretta Watkins.)

**PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS**

President	Open
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Karen Hamilton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Don Sanders
Treasurer	Open
Corres. Secretary	Betty Bloxom
Membership Sec.	John Shaedel
Recording Sec.	Julie Dzengeliski

As you can see, there are two slots that have no names! Hopefully, by the time of the next Civic League Meeting (**Thursday, November 19**) we will have a full slate. If you are willing to serve or know of someone, please come forward! Clera Hall would like to have you call at **473-8258** or email at **Clera@JUNO.com**. See you at the meeting!



**NEWS FLASH FROM PEMBROKE MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB!!!!**

Hurry and place your holiday greens orders. We still have a good selection, but some of the popular items are nearing sell-out. We are very grateful for the community support of our project. Your purchases will enable us to further the beautification our area.

**CATHEDRAL DRIVE TRAFFIC STUDY.**

The statistical traffic sampling count on Cathedral Drive, which our Civic League requested as part of the City's "Traffic Calming" program, was conducted in mid-October. The full analysis of data gathered from that count, however, had not been completed at press time. Thus, we do not yet know whether Cathedral Drive will qualify for Phase 2 (police patrol/monitoring) of the program.

Jim Willenbrink

Our neighbor and printer, Al Launder of Kopy Kat, has been very patient and helpful during my term as Editor. Thank you, Al, for bailing me out of some tight deadline squeezes!



**GREAT NEWS ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK!**

*Our civic league has requested the city to upgrade some of the equipment and facilities in our Lake Meadows Park. The Department of Parks and Recreation has responded with great news just received last week. Our park is now programmed to receive a brand new expanded playground (new and safety-improved swings, slides, climber, spring animals, etc. all on a modern, safer mud-free surface). Also some new tables and benches will be added. Work is expected to begin in early spring. More details will be published in future newsletters. For additional information call Jeanette Willenbrink at 497-0700.*

**WOULD ANYONE BE INTERESTED IN AN ADULT NEIGHBORHOOD OUTING?**

We could rent a TRT trolley to pick us up in the neighborhood, take us to see the holiday lights, dine out at a nice restaurant and bring us back to the neighborhood. Cost would depend on number of participants. Call 473-8258 if you're interested.

*WE WISH ALL OF YOU A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON! There will not be a December issue of the newsletter.*

**The deadline for January Newsletter is 3 January 1999!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We just heard from Connie Lue that Rex will have surgery again. We wish you well, Rex, and look forward to seeing you and Connie back at the meetings soon.

## RESIDENT RESPONDS TO PREVIOUS ANONYMOUS LETTER

The following letter arrived just before press time: "As a resident of Pembroke Meadows, I would like to add to the observations of the resident that was printed in the October issue of the Newsletter. Although I agree that For Sale signs and For Rent signs should not be placed in the entrance to our community, I have also observed that there are more obvious indications that our community is on the demise. For example, the houses in our neighborhood that are literally falling apart, an unrepaired roof that has been covered with tarpaulin for months, residents who store indoor household furniture on their patios, unkempt yards or even those yards that have old cars parked on the grass!!! Then there are the speeders—older residents as well as teenagers oblivious to the fact that this is not a highway and there are children living in our neighborhood! It is time for all residents of Pembroke Meadows to wake up and realize that although a problem may not exist on their block, a problem two or three blocks away affects the neighborhood as a whole. A potential resident will not say 'I am not going to live on that block because of the way it is kept'— instead he or she will say "I am not going to live in that Neighborhood!!!!!!!!!"



## POOL NEWS

1998-99 Pool Board's First Meeting was held on Oct. 18. The officers for the 1998/99 season at our delightful neighborhood pool are: CO-Directors - George and Loretta Watkins  
Asst. Director - Susan Harris  
Treasurer - Bill Bertholf  
Secretary - Maureen Loflin  
Members-at-Large - Wes Denton, Karen Joseph, Catherine Kulp, Jim Price and Donna Spinelli.  
Running the pool is a year-round job. Board members met to discuss and implement plans for winter maintenance and purchase of winter chemicals (uyp, the water has to be "treated" each month, all winter), upgrading mechanical equipment, pool security, defining membership and responsibilities for committees (pool rentals, socials, buildings and ground maintenance and so much more). The next Board meeting is Nov. 22. Call the number below by Nov 25 if you want to suggest a topic for the Board to discuss. (We have plenty, but your interests are important to us, too.) Some decisions are easy to make; some are a little harder. But whatever the outcome, be assured that the elected officers are already working hard—using their own "free time" to keep the 30-year-old neighborhood tradition alive and well. Many of you grown-ups played at that pool when you were kids, and now your children enjoy it. **Pembroke Meadows -- what a nice place to live!**

**Loretta Watkins  
Pool CO-Director  
497-2130**

## A REALLY "COOL" HOLIDAY GIFT! !



No matter how hard we try to buy meaningful holiday presents, it is a sad fact that many gifts that we will all purchase in the next 2 months will be used up or forgotten by spring. As the holidays approach, many of us wish to give gifts of lasting value to our loved ones. Why not consider the gift of a summer full of fun? Give a gift certificate for a whole or partial payment of a membership to the pool for the summer of '99. Every time your child or grandchild jumps into the "cool of the pool" on a hot, hot day, you can hear little squeals of delight. Let those little squeals be "Thank yous" to you for making a smart decision ad for providing many days of family fun and physical fitness. Call for further information regarding gift certificates, available in various dollar amounts. **George or Loretta Watkins, 497-2130.**

**POLICE REPORT.** At our last Civic League Meeting, October 15, 3rd Precinct Officer Rosen talked to us concerning our neighborhood. He told us that our area is a low profile area and very few times does a police cruiser enter our neighborhood. The police are sent to high profile areas. It was brought up by members in attendance that people are in the park across from the pool after dusk and also some unusual scenes during the day. Perhaps if you see something unusual, it is your civic duty to call the police. They don't know if we don't tell them. Maybe if we all care about our community, as it seems we do, we will keep Pembroke Meadows area a low profile forever!

**Valerie Davis**



## HALLOWEEN WALK 1998

As the early afternoon hours of Halloween approached, our little community was the destination of all types of goblins, goons, witches, animals, the Three Musketeers and just about any type of folklore character imaginable. You may ask, what strange event caused such an abnormal situation?

Our annual Halloween Walk took place right on schedule (3 p.m.) led by the ever-popular INDEPENDENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (60 members strong) and Grace Sherwood, the Witch of Pungo, with her eggshell that she sailed to England. Many people say they saw Mrs. Sherwood's dog, Baily, in the shell, but we all know that is impossible!

For over two blocks, the parade of undesirables and misfits made their way from the medical center through the Meadows toward their goal at the park where food, drink and games awaited. At least four wheel chairs made this mile-and-a-half trip. Chanello's provided five pizzas and the Civic League furnished the drinks, candy and 10 more pizzas. The Outback Steakhouse supplied 200 bags of goodies with activity books. Ten students from ODU helped with the games at the park again this year and provided more candy. Many parents were busy giving out juice and cookies. The

Independence Middle Band director say this is the only time they get to march and we appreciate

their talents. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Parade Coordinator, Belinda Nash (Grace Sherwood), the Pembroke Meadows Garden Club members and the many other unsung heroes who help guide, direct, set up and clean up after the event. This eighth annual Halloween Walk could not have happened if we did not pull together as a Civic League Organization. It is this type of activity that makes a neighborhood special and a great place to live and raise a family.

AS A CIVIC LEAGUE OUR MINDS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW IDEAS, AND OUR DOORS ARE OPEN FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.

May we see you at the next monthly meeting?

John Shaedel  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.

## IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN DECLINE?

In the general history of subdivision developments, it is quite common for many neighborhoods, as they age, to gradually decline in maintenance, appearance and quality of life. For over 25 years it has been an objective of our Civic League to prevent or abate such decline in Pembroke Meadows/Shores. But is it happening now? Last month a couple who were former residents of Pembroke Meadows (whose job relocated them to the Midwest about 7 years ago) revisited our neighborhood and specifically commented about its apparent decline. "It seems like a lot of people aren't

taking care of their homes and yards like they used to." Many of the older residents of our community may recognize such a trend, but what can/should we do about it? Do many residents even care? What is your opinion? Send your comments email to [Clera@juno.com](mailto:Clera@juno.com) or to the address at the top of the newsletter.

## HAVE YOU GOT AN OLD CLUNKER IN YOUR DRIVEWAY?

You can get rid of that eyesore and get a tax deduction at the same time. A tow truck driver will come to your house and load the car onto a flatbed. Many Hampton Roads charities accept tax-deductible gifts, but you should contact your favorite charity to see if it does. The better Business Bureau, at 531-1300, can advise you on reputable charities. The National Kidney Foundation does want donations of cars, buses, motorcycles, or trucks to be sold at auction or for parts, to raise funds through the Kidney Cars Program for research, patient services, organ donations and more. **Those interested in donating vehicles (which are tax-deductible and includes FREE PICK-UP) can call 1-800-488-CARS to receive an instructional packet from the NKF.** Do you need to get rid of that rusty clunker? Donate it to a charity. You get to help a good cause and get a tax deduction. **Just remember to keep that receipt for your tax return.**

**GET WELL SOON!** We wish Gay Dean a speedy recovery! **ATTA' GIRL!** Melody Hudgins of Notre Dame visited all residents of townhomes to petition for large containers! Nov. 9 delivery!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Chandelier, stained glass w/ 6-light brass fixture w/sm. cen. spotlight on sep. switch. Very pretty and in excellent cond. \$75 Ashley Wilson, 497-7134

**FOR SALE:** Shower Door for shower stall. Bright brass frame with clear glass door (install. inst. incl.) Ex. cond. and clean. Make offer. Ashley Wilson, 497-7134

**READING COMPREHENSION, MATH & PHONICS:** Gr. 1-8. Right in neighborhood. Mrs. Watkins, 497-2130

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