

CIVIC LEAGUE OF PEMBROKE MEADOWS, INC.

Pembroke Meadows, Pembroke Shores,
and Pembroke Shores Townhomes



CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

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Coming Events!

- * Civic League Meeting 7:00 April 10
- * Spring Fling April 19
- * Save the Bay Day June 7

SPRING FLING ***APRIL 19, 2008***

Come join your neighbors in helping to clean up the Pool, Park and Dam. 9AM to 1PM. The Civic League will provide lunch. Please bring your garden tools.
- Don Sanders (Civic League President)

Civic League Meeting

The next Civic League Meeting will be on April 10, 2008. The speaker is Carol Guiroli one of our neighbors. She is with the Alzheimer's Organization and will talk about early symptoms and local resources for families dealing with Alzheimer's.

POOL NEWS

Well here we are getting ready to have a SPRING FLING. Mark your calendars for April 19 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. A cookout will be prepared for lunch. We need your strength, both physically and emotionally. Sometimes it feels lonely working to get the pool ready. We need to know you are there ready to help. This cleanup will be a little different. We are opening a new section of the woods for use by the pool members. There will be a few picnic tables set in the tree line. Some saplings and brush need pruning and we sure could use your help. Donations of bedding plants would also be appreciated as we work to landscape the area.

Many thanks to those who purchased Norfolk Florist cards. The sales were brisk. We have a great team working on the pool board this year (when haven't they been great!). Stop by and meet them at the Spring Fling. I can guarantee they will be glad to meet you.

- Jeanne Blair (PMRC Director)

Sentara To Remove Inpatient Beds At Bayside Hospital

State Deputy Health Commissioner Dr. James Burns has granted approval for the Sentara Princess Anne Hospital Certificate of Public Need application at 120 beds and denied Bon Secours' application for a hospital in Virginia Beach.

This allows Sentara to transfer all inpatient beds from Bayside Hospital and continue their plans for Princess Anne Hospital. Once the PA facility is operational, the inpatient section of Bayside Hospital will be closed.

According to Stephen Porter, Administrator and Vice President of both Sentara Bayside Hospital and Sentara Princess Anne complex, Bayside will transition to an outpatient campus providing many of the services available today, including a 24-hour, ambulance accessible Emergency Department, advanced imaging, physical therapy, a full service laboratory and additional offerings based on community need.

Ladies Lunch Group

Hi! This is Jeanette Willenbrink and I am reporting for the Ladies Lunch Group. The next Ladies Lunch Group will be on April 23rd, Wednesday at noon at Federico's, 357 Independence Blvd. (across from Sears). **This is important**; we will need a count of the people attending, for Federico's planning. When the phone volunteers call, please give a firm response. Come help us plan the May outing, as it is undecided at this time.

- Thanks,

Jeanette

Wildlife Sightings

Recent Articles in the Beacon/Pilot have reported problems with nutria in various Virginia Beach area neighborhoods. We have had several confirmed reports of nutria sighted near both Lake Pembroke and Lake Meadows.

Nutria are very large rodents up to 4 feet in length. Generally, they are nocturnal animals, easily spooked by humans. They feed primarily on vegetation and have been very destructive in many wetlands areas. Daylight sightings of nutria are rare, but might indicate that the animal is sick, perhaps rabid, in which case they might pose a danger to humans or pets.

There have also been several reports of river otters on both Lake Meadows and Lake Pembroke. These sightings are rare. River otters are aquatic animals, which feed mostly on fish without endangering the environment. They are no threat to humans, unless perhaps they have contracted rabies.

CAUTION: Elsewhere in Virginia Beach there have been frequent reports of rabid raccoons and opossums. We've had no such reports in our neighborhood. However since there are many raccoons & possums nearby, we should be cautious and particularly concerned that other animals might bite our pets.

- Jim Willenbrink

The Independence Veterinary Hospital will be having their annual yard sale in their parking lot at the end of April.

| <i>Pembroke Meadows Civic League Median Strip Cleanup</i> | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>March 24 - April 6</i> | <i>The Willenbrinks</i> |
| <i>April 7 - 20</i> | <i>The Brotmans</i> |
| <i>April 21 - May 4</i> | <i>Peggy Caverly</i> |
| <i>May 5 - 18</i> | <i>The Jim Halls</i> |
| <i>May 19 - June 1</i> | <i>John Sheadel</i> |
| <i>June 2 - 15</i> | <i>The Moores</i> |

NEW TOWNE CENTER PLANS:

The City recently held an information meeting for the Pembroke Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan. There are a number of proposals to reduce congestion on Independence and VB Blvd, including rerouting traffic on VB Blvd, creating additional north/south street connectors across I-264, as well as a possible tunnel for Independence. Bike paths, parks, and two light rail stations were also discussed in the long-term proposal. More details, pictures and maps are available online. Go to www.downtownVB.com to view the plans and leave your comments.

T-MOBILE UPDATE

The T-Mobile crew should start work down at the pool soon. It will be neat to watch them work, but we ask all to watch from the park so that safety can be maintained. We will try to send an email out to our neighbors when the tower is brought in by crane. The kids will be in awe of the size. But in comparison to the trees around it, it will only be about 6 feet taller. The crew has been very informative about the project and the enclosure of the tower will look very similar to the pool bldg. You may not even see the enclosure since the city requires landscaping around it. The cedars will be a minimum of 8' tall. I will be sitting in my folding chair behind the park fence watching the goings on. Come keep me company.

- Jeanne Blair



House at 4412 Hudgins

Neighborhood Fire

There was a fire in our neighborhood at 4412 Hudgins where a van caught fire and the fire spread to the house. The van and house were both destroyed by the fire. The NHTSA has put out the Consumer Advisory below

Consumer Advisory: NHTSA Warns Ford, Lincoln and Mercury Owners of Fire Hazards Involving Faulty Cruise Control Switches in Recalled Vehicles That Have Not Been Repaired

Owners of Recalled Vehicles are Urged to Bring Vehicles to Dealers Immediately to Disconnect Faulty Switches

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration today urged owners of certain un-repaired Ford, Lincoln and Mercury SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, and certain passenger cars that contain a safety defect to bring their vehicles to dealer repair shops immediately to have the cruise control switch disconnected. Many dealers will perform this as a “drive through” service so owners do not have to leave their vehicles at the dealership or schedule an appointment in advance.

Failure to have the switch disconnected could lead to a vehicle fire at any time, whether or not the key is in the ignition, and whether or not owners use the cruise control system. The safety agency said the fire danger is present regardless of the age of the vehicle, and could even occur while the vehicle is parked and unattended. Several dwelling fires have been attributed to the problem.

NHTSA said it is issuing the consumer advisory due to concerns that many owners have yet to respond to multiple safety defect recall notifications involving approximately 9.6 million registered vehicles. It said that approximately five million vehicles have been repaired so far, leaving some five million passenger cars and light trucks with the faulty switches intact, and in danger of catching fire.

Ford and NHTSA urged all owners of recalled vehicles that have not been repaired to bring their vehicles to dealers as soon as possible to have the faulty switches disconnected, as an interim safety measure. Ford is in the process of re-notifying owners of the SUVs and other light trucks concerning the importance of having the switch disconnected.

This interim fix will eliminate the risk of fire while affected Ford and Mercury owners are waiting for final repairs from the company, NHTSA said.

The involved vehicles are:

1. 1993 – 2004 F150
2. 1993 – 1999 F250 (gasoline engine)
3. 1993 – 1996 Bronco
4. 1994 – 1996 Econoline
5. 1997 – 2002 Ford Expedition
6. 1998 – 2002 Lincoln Navigator
7. 1998 – 2002 Ford Ranger
8. 1992 – 1998 Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car
9. 1993 – 1998 Lincoln Mark VIII
10. 1993 – 1995 Ford Taurus SHO with automatic transmission
11. 1994 – Mercury Capri
12. 1998 – 2001 Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer
13. 2001 – 2002 Ford Explorer Sport and Explorer Sport Trac
14. 1992 – 1993 and 1997 – 2003 Ford E-150-350 gasoline or natural gas vehicles
15. 2002 – E-550 gasoline engine vehicles
16. 1996 – 2003 E-450 gasoline or natural gas vehicles
17. 1994 – 2002 F-250 through F-550 super Duty trucks (gasoline engine)
18. 2000 – 2002 Ford Excursion (gasoline engine)
19. 2003 – F250 – F550 Super Duty, Ford Excursion
20. 1995 – 2002 Ford F53 Motor home chassis
21. 2002 – 2003 Lincoln Blackwood

Hidden Hazards in Your Home

If you're new to our neighborhood, we have a surprise for you. Almost all the homes in Pembroke Meadows and Pembroke Shores were built with electric wire made of aluminum rather than copper. Under the right circumstances, aluminum wire can be safe. But if not installed and treated properly, it can be a serious fire hazard. Aluminum wire is no longer used in residential construction for this reason.

Many newer electricians have little experience with aluminum wire and may be completely unfamiliar with its problems. That means you have to educate yourself about aluminum wire and be sure you either hire an experienced electrician or use the proper procedures in any do-it-yourself projects.

Experts and manufacturers have studied the problems of aluminum wire ever since the mid-1970's when the hazards were first identified. Unlike copper wire, which is relatively stable, aluminum wire deforms easily, expands and contracts more, is brittle and oxidizes immediately. These characteristics can make a high resistance electrical junction and that means heat. Heat makes everything worse. If a joint becomes hot enough, it can cause a fire.

The number one recommendation by the experts is to replace all aluminum wire with copper. Unfortunately, this is tremendously expensive and often extremely difficult. The second recommendation is to hire a certified electrician to use special tools to bond a copper pigtail to the end of all aluminum wires. However, because there are fewer and fewer homes with aluminum wire, electricians with the equipment and certification have become scarce and therefore, expensive.

Although not a complete cure, there are procedures and hardware that will reduce the risks associated with aluminum wire:

- Always use switches and receptacles rated CO/ALR (Copper/Aluminum Revised). These replace any older fixture rated only CO/AL (Copper/Aluminum). Never use switches or receptacles rated only for CU (Copper). Sadly, there are currently only a

few manufacturers and models of CO/ALR devices.

- Always use an anti-oxidant compound on all aluminum wire joints. For example, most electrical suppliers sell Ideal NOALOX and GB Ox-Gard. Better still, a non-flammable anti-oxidant compound is available called Penetrox A-13 from Burndy, which some experts consider to be superior. Carefully follow the procedures that come with the product to apply the compound and remove the existing aluminum oxide on the wire.
- Always use wire nuts or splices rated for aluminum to copper. Do not use wire nuts that are only rated for copper (Cu/Cu). Although expensive, these splices provide increased safety for joining aluminum to aluminum or aluminum to copper wire. Look for the "UL Listed" seal as a guide to products that have the materials and construction to reduce the risks associated with aluminum wire. One new product that seems very promising is "AlumiConn" from King Innovation. These splices are available locally at Lowe's in a 10-pack for \$30.00.
- Never connect stranded copper wire to aluminum wire. If you must make a splice, such as to a ceiling light fixture with stranded wire, make a short pigtail of solid copper wire between the stranded wire and the aluminum wire.

For more information about aluminum wire, you can visit this web site:

<http://www.inspect-ny.com/aluminum/alreduce.pdf> or go to www.wikipedia.com and look-up "aluminum wire".

You may be tempted to say "Nothing has happened so far..." but problems in aluminum wire may not develop for years or until an unusually heavy load, such as a hair dryer or portable heater is plugged in. So take a few minutes to make yourself smart and then you can more accurately assess the condition of the wiring in your home. In the mean time, make sure you have fresh batteries in all your smoke detectors.

Clif Furedy, cfuredy@cox.net

Elliott H. Brown Sr.

VIRGINIA BEACH - Elliott Herbert "Zeke" Brown Sr., 84, passed away at home with his loving family by his side Feb. 27, 2008.

He was born in Norfolk April 2, 1923, son of the late Herbert and Naomi Brown. Zeke was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving his country proudly during World War II. Zeke retired from ILA Local 1624 after 33 years of employment and was a member of the American Legion. During his 24-year retirement, Zeke enjoyed fishing, crabbing and spending time with his family and friends. His parents and his two sisters, Dorothy Marker and Ruby Flowers, predeceased Zeke.

Left to cherish Zeke's memory are his wife of 59 years, Frances Brown; his two sons, Elliott H. Brown Jr. and his wife Shirley of Suffolk and Charles R. Brown and his wife Janet of Virginia Beach; his two grandchildren, Kellie and Curtis; his sister, Malvine Hudgins and her husband June; his two brothers, Alton Brown and his wife Shirley and Thomas Brown and his wife Verna; as well as several nieces, nephews and a host of devoted friends and neighbors.

A graveside service to celebrate Zeke's life was held Monday at 2 p.m. by the Rev. Charles Shumate in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, 6309 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk, with military honors accorded Mr. Brown. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. Online condolences and Zeke's guest book may be signed at www.woodlawngroup.com

Zeke was a wonderful neighbor who died recently. He (along with his wife Frances) will always be remembered for a lot of things, in particular for the care they gave to the mob who waited for the school bus on their corner (of St. Martins and Temple.) The kids sat on their porch in the rain and played on their lawn. They were always watching out for the kids. Zeke was a wonderful person and all of us will miss him, especially the kids.

- Teri Mikulka

Relay for Life

The Annual Walk to Put Up the Fight Against Cancer is right around the corner and Independence Veterinary Hospital needs your help. It's time to start raising money for their Relay for Life Team: Warm Hearts for Cold Noses. Please donate any belonging for the Annual Yard Sale, which is held in the hospital parking lot on Pembroke Boulevard the last week in April. All new or old, but gently used items such as clothes, toys, books, games, house wares, furniture ... anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated. You may deliver items to the hospital during regular office hours. Please help them make a Difference! Call 473-8560 for more information.

Please Secure Your Trash & Recycle Containers

On a recent windy Wednesday, numerous recycle & some trash containers were blown open. Much paper and plastic trash was strewn about on some streets. So please close your containers securely and place heavier items on top of loose plastic bags, paper, etc.

Civic League Officers

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|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>President</i> | <i>Don Sanders</i> | <i>499-7987</i> |
| <i>First VP</i> | <i>Terri Hawley</i> | <i>473-1936</i> |
| <i>Second VP</i> | <i>Mike Moore</i> | <i>557-0328</i> |
| <i>Corres. Sec.</i> | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | <i>Clera Hall</i> | <i>473-8258</i> |
| <i>Memb. Chrman</i> | <i>John Sheadel</i> | <i>499-0678</i> |
| <i>Co-Recording Sec.</i> | <i>Teri Mikulka,</i> | <i>497-5856</i> |
| | <i>Brian Rabe</i> | <i>456-0864</i> |
| <i>Pool Director</i> | <i>Jeanne Blair</i> | <i>497-8844</i> |
| <i>Webmaster</i> | <i>Clif Furedy</i> | <i>490-579</i> |

Committees

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Bldg/Grounds</i> | <i>Michael J. White</i> | |
| <i>Entrance/Median</i> | <i>Jim Price</i> | <i>499-5115</i> |
| <i>Electrical</i> | <i>George Watkins</i> | <i>497-2130</i> |
| <i>Flag</i> | <i>Joe Lang</i> | <i>497-2897</i> |
| <i>Neighborhood Maint.</i> | <i>Robert Westmont</i> | <i>473-1024</i> |

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Block Security</i> | | |
| <i>Meadows</i> | <i>Stephanie Neihart</i> | <i>456-5795</i> |
| <i>Shores</i> | <i>Bob/Marge Brotman</i> | <i>497-0565</i> |
| <i>Townhomes</i> | <i>Barbara Willenbrink</i> | <i>554-0092</i> |

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|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Directory Chairman</i> | <i>Robert Westmont</i> | <i>473-1024</i> |
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| <i>Lakes/Waterways</i> | <i>Chairman: Jim Willenbrink</i> | |
| <i>Lake Pembroke</i> | <i>Jim Willenbrink</i> | <i>497-0700</i> |
| <i>Lake Meadows</i> | <i>Charlie Russ</i> | <i>497-5298</i> |
| <i>Lynnhaven</i> | <i>Robert Westmont</i> | <i>473-1024</i> |

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| <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | <i>Bruce Blair</i> | <i>497-8844</i> |
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| <i>Newsletter Ads</i> | <i>Clera Hall (Temp.)</i> | <i>473-8258</i> |
| <i>Shores</i> | <i>Belinda Nash</i> | <i>490-2504</i> |
| <i>Meadows</i> | <i>Jim Willenbrink</i> | <i>497-0700</i> |
| <i>Pool Phone</i> | | <i>963-2239</i> |