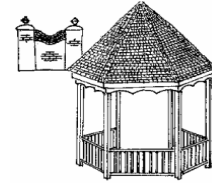


# CIVIC LEAGUE OF PEMBROKE MEADOWS, INC.

Pembroke Meadows, Pembroke Shores,  
and Pembroke Shores Townhomes

CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



April 2009

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## President's Corner:

Neighbors:

On Sunday, March 29, 2009, Jeanne Blair, Pool Director, visited our beloved neighborhood pool to get an eye on the resurfacing progress. What she found was a good bit of vandalism – with a touch of downright meanness added into the mix.

An initial assessment is that the destruction will set pool fundraising back a few thousand dollars.

There were a few clues left behind that have been shared with the appropriate law enforcement authorities. The investigation is ongoing with various units of the Virginia Beach Police Department. I am personally hopeful that this particular crime will be solved with some good old-fashioned police work.

Often our children overhear or see things that would have significance to police investigators. Often, they do not realize their tidbit has any importance. As a long-time pool member and resident of Pembroke Meadows, I ask you to talk with your middle and high school-aged children or young adult to see what, if anything, they may know.

The Virginia Beach Crime Line is an excellent way for information to be shared. One need only call 1-888-LOCK-U-UP. The calls are anonymous. If the tip leads to an arrest and conviction, there is a monetary reward offered. As a parent, I am particularly fond of the “anonymous” portion of this feature. You may, of course, talk directly with the police about any knowledge you have related to this crime or any other crime.

Thank you for your time and attention. Let's work together to ensure that our neighborhood and its pool, buildings and grounds are kept safe and crime free!

- Mike Moore, President  
Pembroke Meadows Civic League

## Spring Fling May 2<sup>nd</sup>

It's that time again to clean up the median strip, neighborhood park and pool area. Calling all neighbors to join together to spruce up and clean up. We need lots of people to make the job easy and quick. Spring Fling will be May 2. Lunch will be served at the pool at 11:00am. Cleanup starts at 9:00am. We always have a great time getting ready. You'll get a sneak peek at the new and improved pool. See you there.

- Jeanne  
PMRC

## April Civic League Meeting

The April 16, 2009 monthly meeting of our civic league will be one filled with exciting happenings. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Parks of the Virginia Beach Commonwealth Attorney's Consumer Affairs Office. This office assists our citizenry with issues related to everything from simple purchase issues to automobile buying, insurance questions, fraud alerts, consumer credit questions and assistance for young consumers of goods.

We have also asked Ms. Parks to explain the City's "CASE Partnership". This partnership is a joint effort to protect our older adults from exploitation and fraud. The partnership members include the Consumer Affairs Office, Adult Protective Services and the Department of Human Services.

Whether your interest is for your parents, older friends or family or yourself, please join us to learn about this program and its offerings in our community.

Additionally, the April meeting will find us congratulating one lucky civic league member who wins a free 2009 family membership to our neighborhood recreation center (pool). Those of us who have attended meetings during the fall and winter have been placing our names in a box for this drawing. Please remember that the membership is transferable to another paid, in good standing, civic league member. The name will be drawn at the end of the April meeting. So....there's one more opportunity to get your name in the running. Pay those dues and attend our meeting!

- See you all there.  
Donna Price

## FERRY PLANTATION HOUSE

We still have some tickets left for our May Day Scottish Tea on May 2nd. This is a great way to have fun, enjoy company of family or friends and help the ongoing restoration of Ferry Plantation House.

For reservations call **473-5182**.

- Gerry Dashiell-Richter

## Pembroke Ladies Lunch Group

The Ladies Lunch Group will gather at Le The' Et Crepes, 1801 Pleasure House Rd. at Noon on Wednesday, April 22 at Noon. (If you are driving toward the bay on Pleasure House Rd. from Independence Blvd., it will be on the left just before Northampton Blvd. and there is a traffic light where you make the turn just before Northampton. Please phone in your reservations by Monday prior to the luncheon, or e-mail.

In May, we will be going to Bubba's Crabhouse at 3323 Shore Drive. The date is Thursday, May 28 at noon. Please phone or e-mail your reservations by Tuesday prior to the luncheon day.

You may call in an e-mail address to me any time and I will put you on our list for notification of the luncheon. Hope to see many new folks in these nice spring months. Thanks, Jeanette (497-0700)

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S

Come join us at Applebee's for a pancake breakfast on May 9. It is the Saturday before Mother's Day. Let the kids take Mom out for breakfast. Tickets are \$5.00 ea. Breakfast served 8-10am. What a great way to start the day. Call for tickets 497-8844 or email [jbbbtbbb@verizon.net](mailto:jbbbtbbb@verizon.net).

## Upcoming events of interest

- American Indian Pow Wow - Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 11am-6pm Red Wing Park
- Earth Day - Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11am-5pm Mount Trashmore Park
- K-9 Karnival Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am-5pm Red Wing Park

## Kidde Recalls to Replace Fire Extinguishers Due to Failure to Operate

Some models of the fire extinguishers are failing to operate.

If you have this brand of extinguisher in your home, garage, etc., please take a moment to make sure it's in working order.

You can read the recall information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at this link:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09151.html>

## Found:

Aluminum 8 x 13 roasting pan and fork. Left at community potluck in Feb. Contact Mike Moore @ 557-0328

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

April 4th (rain date April 11th) to help clean up and clear up the exterior grounds at **Ferry Plantation House**. Show up Saturday morning with your garden tools/equipment and join others in our Spring Clean Up. Further information at 473-5182

## Pets

With spring right around the corner I feel it is time to have a reminder in the newsletter regarding the control of pets.

**Barking dogs:** The city ordinance has a nuisance law concerning barking dogs and I believe the limit is 20 minutes to be considered a nuisance and reported to the city. Owners can be fined under this law.

**Loose cats:** Cats as well as dogs are subject to the "leash law" and can be "captured" in cages provided by the city that will pick up the animal and notify the owner. Cats lay in wait for birds and rabbits that are in our area (We are a bird sanctuary in PM).

It is the responsibility of the owners to properly control their pets so they do not become a nuisance to neighbors.

- John and Barbara Kingly (residents since 1973)

## Pool News

The company has started the work on the pool. It sure is strange to see it empty. Even more so when they cut 381 sq ft of surface to repair. And then a final insult - they drilled holes in the bottom of the pool. Don't worry; it was necessary to keep the ground water from ruining the pool bottom. But now things are progressing. The company has repaired all the bad sections of pool surface and removed the light blue tile along the upper edge. If you have time, take a walk down and see for yourself all the work. We are now in a holding pattern while the concrete repairs cure. That will take two weeks. But it won't stop work on the pool. The crew will put up the new wall tile while the concrete cures. By the time the tiles are in place and they have time to dry/cure, it will be time to start the fiberglass process. Look for the improvements to be completed in 3 weeks. Then we will fill the pool and start cleaning up the rest of the property. Remember, the pool opens Memorial Day Weekend, with a **FREE POOL DAY** on Memorial Day. Jot it down now on your calendars to come join us that weekend. Lots of fun and activities.

Because of the repairs, we have another fundraiser coming up. Tickets will be available starting April 15 for the **PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT APPLEBEE'S** on May 9. The tickets will be \$5.00 each. Let the kids take Mom out to breakfast on that Saturday morning.

Many thanks to all those who helped refurbish the pool coffers by purchasing Norfolk Florist Cards. The funds came in handy to help defray repair costs to the pool that exceeded our estimates. Don't worry if you didn't get a card this time. We plan another card sale in August so that everyone has plenty of flowers for the holidays. Just know we appreciate all you do to support the pool and our neighborhood.

- Jeanne  
PMRC

## Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney Consumer Affairs Program Highlights 2009

**Law Enforcement:** The Consumer Affairs Program is a high profile aid to Virginia Beach citizens. We enforce the Consumer Protection Act and other related laws. We investigate consumer complaints and prepare cases for prosecution if appropriate. We mediate complaints which are not violations of law. In the last three years: We received 1,562 requests for investigations and mediations \$865,584.80 was returned to consumers in cash or in-kind refunds.

We also issue permits for, and monitor going out of business sales.

**Consumer Education:** Education is the key to the prevention of consumer abuse. We provide consumers with information on their rights and responsibilities as well as complaint history of businesses. In the last three years: We have responded to 20,473 citizen questions and inquiries 34,143 brochures have been distributed regarding credit, home improvement, automobile information, retail shopping, telemarketing, identity theft, information for seniors, etc. 148 presentations were given to various organizations and schools. This number increased from 29 in FY 05-06 to 72 in FY 07-08.

We have issued 9 press releases and have been interviewed by media representatives 40 times.

We update our website recall page every two weeks and post new tips or warnings every month to keep consumers informed of current issues.

**Special Programs:** Active participation in various groups and programs has made consumers more aware of our services and has further reduced victimization. These special programs include:  
**Virginia Beach Triad:** National organization with local chapters designed to reduce crimes against the elderly and provide an opportunity for exchange of information. We coordinate speakers for monthly meetings, send out the meeting notices, and provide information and assistance at each session. Membership and

participation has greatly increased as a result of our efforts. We also assist with Triad sponsored events such as the Senior Citizens' Police Academy.

**Meals on Wheels Partnership:** We began this partnership in 2001 to insure that our home-bound citizens would not become victims of door-to-door scams, telemarketing scams, or other crimes due to isolation. At the end of 2008, we had delivered meals and consumer information to 712 Meals on Wheels clients.

**CASE Partnership:** Communities Against Senior Exploitation Partnership was launched by Consumer Affairs and Adult Protective Services in 2007. CASE is designed to prevent fraud and exploitation of older adults. We partner with faith communities and other organizations to spread fraud prevention information. Seminars are provided to members of the group and monthly fraud alerts are sent to the designated representative for distribution. By the end of 2008, 42 partnership agreements were signed, 57 seminars were conducted, and monthly fraud alerts are now distributed to over 11,820 citizens each month.

**Virginia Beach City Public Schools Adult Learning Center:** In February 2008 we began teaching community service classes on fraud prevention at the Adult Learning Center.

**Senior Resource Center:** In addition to giving presentations, once a month personnel are available on site at the Center to give assistance to consumers.

Consumer Affairs staff members also serve on various boards and participate in several local, state, and national organizations including:

**Financial Exploitation Action Team (F.E.A.T.):** This is a coalition of local public and private organizations whose mission is to increase public awareness about the issue of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. We give presentations to financial institution employees to help them recognize and report financial exploitation. We also give presentations to community groups to help them protect themselves from financial exploitation.

**Multi-Agency Information Network (M.A.I.N):** This is an organization Consumer Affairs started in 1994 to help develop relationships



between different agencies and to share information. We meet 4 times a year. Consumer Affairs Advisory Committee (C.A.A.C.): Program Coordinator was appointed by the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2001. Meetings are held twice a year in Richmond to make recommendations concerning consumer education in Virginia. Virginia Association of Consumer Affairs Administrators (V.A.C.A.A): We meet 4 times a year to share information between the consumer affairs offices, the Attorney General's Office, and other agencies.

#### Awards:

2008 Best Practices Award from the Commonwealth Council on Aging for CASE Partnership  
2006 PEER Award for Consumer Affairs Investigators  
2002 ACE Award, National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators for our Meals on Wheels Partnership  
2002 City Manager's Award for our Meals on Wheels Partnership  
2001 Consumer Education Award, National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators for our "After the Disaster..." booklet Fraud Alert! From the Virginia Beach Consumer Affairs Program

## THE TAX MAN COMETH AND SO DO TAX SCAMMERS

The IRS is warning U.S. taxpayers about an increase in scams and virus attacks via e-mail, telephone and the Web as the April 15 tax-filing deadline approaches.

#### SCAMS:

The most common type of scam arrives via e-mail claiming to come from the IRS or Treasury Department. They typically try to either scare consumers into thinking there is an error with their tax filing, or that they are eligible for a tax rebate or benefit from the government economic stimulus package.

"Phishing" e-mails typically arrive in an e-mail that urges users to link to a site, which in turn

prompts visitors to enter their personal and financial data, information that is then sent off to identity thieves.

Tax Preparation Services (while mostly legitimate) can file fraudulent tax returns on behalf of their "clients".

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

The IRS does not communicate with taxpayers via **unsolicited** email.

The IRS never requests passwords, PIN numbers, or other secret access information for bank or credit card accounts.

Do not link on a website address provided in an email. Access the site address through an independent source.

Check out qualifications of any tax preparer and double-check your return to see if the numbers and your social security number are accurate before signing and filing. Be sure the tax preparer personally signs your return.

Get a copy of your completed tax return for your records and never sign a blank tax form or one that is filled out in pencil.

Be aware that "Refund Anticipation Loans" carry up to 500% interest.

#### VIRGINIA BEACH



***CASE is a partnership of the Virginia Beach Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Consumer Affairs Program; the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services and the community to prevent elder financial exploitation.***

For assistance call the Virginia Beach Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Consumer Affairs Program at: 385-6373

## Newsletter Ad Rates

- \$ 30 One time – Business Card
- \$135 One year (9 issues) – Business Card
- \$100 Insert (Advertiser provides the insert)
- \$ 60 One time – ¼ Page

## Civic League Officers

<i>President</i>	<i>Mike Moore</i>	<i>557-0328</i>
<i>First VP</i>	<i>Brian Rabe</i>	<i>456-0864</i>
<i>Second VP</i>	<i>Bill Hawley</i>	<i>473-1936</i>

<i>Corres. Sec.</i>	<i>Peggy Caverly</i>	<i>490-0925</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Clara Hall</i>	<i>473-8258</i>
<i>Memb. Chrman</i>	<i>John Sheadel</i>	<i>499-0678</i>
<i>Recording Sec.</i>	<i>Teri Mikulka,</i>	<i>497-5856</i>
<i>Pool Director</i>	<i>Jeanne Blair</i>	<i>497-8844</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Clif Furedy</i>	<i>490-5796</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>

<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>

<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>

<i>Welcoming Committee Chair: Open</i>		
<i>Meadows</i>	<i>Donna Price</i>	<i>499-5115</i>
<i>Shores</i>	<i>Lisa Dutko</i>	<i>473-1112</i>
<i>Townhomes</i>	<i>Liz Hayes</i>	<i>472-0238</i>

<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Bruce Blair</i>	<i>497-8844</i>
<i>Newsletter Ads</i>	<i>Clara Hall (Temp.)</i>	<i>473-8258</i>

<i>Pet Lost &amp; Found/Pet Registry</i>		
<i>Shores</i>	<i>Gary Dashiell-Richter</i>	<i>497-5243</i>
<i>Meadows</i>	<i>Jim Willenbrink</i>	<i>497-0700</i>

<i>Pool Phone</i>		<i>963-2239</i>
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## How old is Grandpa???

Stay with this -- the answer is at the end. It will blow you away.

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general. The Grandfather replied, "Well, let me think a minute, I was born before:

television,  
penicillin,  
polio shots,  
frozen foods,  
Xerox,  
contact lenses,  
Frisbees and,  
the pill.

There were no:

credit cards,  
laser beams or  
ball-point pens.

Man had not invented:

pantyhose,  
air conditioners,  
dishwashers,  
clothes dryers,

and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and

man hadn't yet walked on the moon

Your Grandmother and I got married first, . . .  
and then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir".

And after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, "Sir."

We were before gay-rights, computer- dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.

We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were those who closed front doors as the evening breeze started.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends-not purchasing condominiums.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the President's speeches on our radios.

And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan ' on it, it was junk.

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam.

Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We had 5 & 10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents.

Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel.

And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, . . . but who could afford one?

Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In my day:

"grass" was mowed,

"coke" was a cold drink,

"pot" was something your mother cooked in and

"rock music" was your grandmother's lullaby.

"Aids" were helpers in the Principal's office,

" chip" meant a piece of wood,

"hardware" was found in a hardware store and

"software" wasn't even a word.

And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation gap. and how old do you think I am?

I bet you have this old man in mind...you are in for a shock!

Read on to see -- pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

Are you ready ?????

**This man would be only 59 years old.**