

# The Fairfield Oak

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER ~ OCTOBER, 2015

[www.fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com](http://www.fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Matt Maxwell

Dear Neighbors,

Over the past two years I have served as the President of the Fairfield Civic League. The neighborhood has been such a special place to live and, for me, raise a family. The houses are well built, the streets are wide, good restaurants with shopping are close by; there is ease in getting around, and a great quality of life. Most importantly, I have enjoyed meeting the people that live in the neighborhood. Fairfield has always been sought after as a place to live. We live in the City of Virginia Beach but our community is Historic Kempsville. You may want to reflect for a moment about why you enjoy living in Fairfield.

We live in a neighborhood that has not seen much change because so many enjoy living here; however, we are starting to observe change as our community matures. The best way to direct this change is to engage in those areas where we can make a difference. What changes am I referring to?

- Enrollment at Kempsville High School and Fairfield Elementary School has declined;
- The Kempsville Recreation Center is being replaced;
- A homeless shelter is planned for the old Kempsville Lumber Site on Witchduck Road;
- The construction of the 525@Historic Kempsville Apartments;
- The completion of the Princess Anne and Kempsville Intersection;
- The redevelopment of the property at Princess Anne and Kempsville;
- Original homeowners are selling their homes and young families are moving into the neighborhood;
- Non-traditional VDBHD families are renting homes in the area;
- The traffic calming issues along Lord Dunmore Drive; and
- Improvements to the neighborhood park and the new sidewalks along Lord Dunmore Dr.

We invite you to please join the Civic League so that we can continue to work as a neighborhood. The dues are modest and used to promote the neighborhood. The American flags you see on the streets throughout the neighborhood on holidays are placed out by members of the Civic League. This program was started by Dick Knight and is now run by Sean McGinty. If you see neighbors placing the flags, please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

The Civic League is promoting the opportunity to get to know your neighbor. We have planned a few events that will be held at our neighborhood park. The schedule for these gatherings is listed on the next page. We hope you are able to join us!

The October 3<sup>rd</sup> Fall Plant Sale is always a great way to thank and support the Fairfield Garden Club for taking such great care of our neighborhood entrances. All the plants at the plant sale are hand selected by the Garden Club.

Fairfield Civic League meetings are scheduled on a regular basis to make them accessible for busy folks. We send out the minutes by email, on Facebook, and on our website ([www.fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com](http://www.fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com)) to help keep everyone informed.

The Civic League needs your help. Your encouragement and ideas are always welcome. Following are some ways in which you can help:

- **Join the Civic League** - either at a meeting or by detaching, filling out the form, and sending the \$12 dues to the address on the form. Dues are small and used to promote the neighborhood. If you would like, your email can be added to the Fairfield Civic League list. All emails are sent out as a blind copy to prevent spam.
- **“Friend” us on Facebook** – our Facebook page is a closed group so that only neighbors are part of the group. The Facebook page allows for a more open dialog on the happenings in Fairfield.
- **Join our Private Social Group** - www.nextdoor.com is sponsored by the City of Virginia Beach. Our neighborhood website is [www.fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com](http://www.fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com) - This site has been promoted to assist with Neighborhood Watch and has lots of great information.
- **Become a Civic League Officer or Committee Member** - we are looking at various positions to help out and have a number of committees where you can become involved. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

There are many different ways to serve our community. Let me encourage you to help out in the schools, rescue squads, or other areas that add value to our community. As long as our Civic League remains active we can have voice in how we shape our community. I look forward seeing you at one of our meeting or events. *“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit”* (Joseph Rochefort).

### **2015-2016 – FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING SCHEDULE**

*Meetings are held monthly on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Elementary School cafeteria.*

October 5	<b><i>Meet the candidates with Senator Frank Wagner and Gary McCollum</i></b> - The Fairfield Civic League will be hosting a discussion with Senator Frank Wagner and Mr. Gary McCollum. They are both running for the 7 <sup>th</sup> State Senate Seat. The purpose of this discussion is to hear from the candidates and provide the opportunity for you to ask questions. This is an important election and this event will give us the chance to discuss the issues important to our community. We live in a changing world, getting to know and working with our elected representative is how we can manage change as neighbors.
November 2	<b><i>Living next to the Chesapeake Bay</i></b>
December 7	<b><i>Traffic Update</i></b>
February 1	<b><i>Commonwealth Attorney Office</i></b>
March 7	<b><i>Improving Property Values</i></b>
April 4	<b><i>Reviving Fairfield</i></b>
May 2	TBD
June 6	TBD

### **MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR EVENTS**

**Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ *Fairfield Garden Club Flower Sale* – Mum’s the word . . . well, not really. Pansies and plants will be on sale under the Fairfield Oak. Please come out and support the Garden Club. Proceeds from the sale are used to keep and maintain the three entrances into Fairfield. In conjunction with the sale, be sure to look for the Fairfield Civic League Membership table and join (\$12)! The more members we have, the stronger voice we have with the City.

**Sunday, October 25, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.** ~ *Fall play in the neighborhood Park*

**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ *The Battle of Kempe’s Landing* - Come learn about historic Kempsville and the first American Revolutionary battle that occurred on November 15, 1775. This 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial re-enactment will take place on the grounds of historic Emmanuel Episcopal Church, which is part of the original battlefield. This event is free to the public, although donations will be accepted.

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** ~ *Hot Chocolate in the neighborhood Park*

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.** ~ *Potluck in the neighborhood Park*

### **FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Doug McLiverty

September, 2015

Over the summer the Fairfield Civic League has worked with the City Traffic Engineering Department to develop a strategy to address the high cut-through traffic in the neighborhood as a continuation of the traffic calming process. We worked with the Traffic Engineers to schedule a traffic study during the months of October – November. The traffic study will assess the effectiveness of the new Princess Anne/Kempsville Road intersection in reducing cut-through traffic.

Based on the traffic study, various options will be presented to the community to address the traffic volume and speed.

In talking with neighbors and with observations from Civic League members, traffic appears to be heavier on Lord Dunmore since the completion of the intersection project, but we need the study to confirm what we have observed with our eyes and ears. In the past, we have discussed and supported options that were popular, but have proven to be very ineffective. Since 1998 we have advocated for a trial closure of Lord Dunmore once the intersection was complete. The trial closure was presented to the Mayor and the City Engineer without objection and supported by the Civic League. Since major work at the intersection has been completed, the traffic study should provide some technical information to implement the trial closure of Lord Dunmore between Fairfield Boulevard and Locke Lane. The trial closure should promote the use of the major roadways and help determine if the new intersection performs as designed.

The Fairfield Community has always been a partner with the City and the Kempsville community at large. Now that the intersection project is complete a permanent solution that provides substantial relief to neighborhood traffic is needed. The intersection has not provided the reduction in cut-through traffic we envisioned and may have made matters worse with the traffic light at Oakmeads Crescent. We were told by the City that traffic calming measures would continue after the intersection was complete. Based on our previous work with the City, now is the time to assess the traffic and implement effective traffic calming solutions. In 1998, we never envisioned the traffic light at Princess Anne Road and Oakmeads Crescent. This light has created more problems, especially with the construction of the new apartment complex.

Our goal is to work to promote the quality of life within our neighborhood and keep Fairfield a safe place to live, raise a family, and promote property values. Fairfield is ideally located within Virginia Beach. Development in other areas of Virginia Beach has increased the traffic density along the major roads. With all this change we do not want to be known as the neighborhood with the best cut-through, but as a great place to live. Those who cut-through our neighborhood typically do not share the same concern for Fairfield.

The way ahead: Complete the traffic study along the busy streets where Traffic Engineering will assess this study and present their findings to the traffic committee. This report will then be presented to the Fairfield Civic League who will share the information within the community. At that time, the possible permanent alternatives will be evaluated by the Civic League and coordinated with the City Traffic Engineer.

Now is the time to resolve our traffic problems, once and for all. We have work ahead as we labor with the City to develop a strategy to calm the traffic. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at [doug.mcliverty@gmail.com](mailto:doug.mcliverty@gmail.com) or better yet, come to our civic league meetings.

#### **HELPFUL NUMBERS**

911	Police Emergency	757-474-8492	Kempsville Rec Center
757-385-5000	Police Non-Emergency	800-552-7001	Miss Utility
757-385-2800	Fourth Precinct	888-667-3000	Dominion VA Power
757-385-4444	Animal Control	866-229-3578	Virginia Natural Gas
757-385-4650	Waste Management	757-385-1470	Mosquito Control, Flooding and Drainage issues, Potholes, and Burned-out Street Lights
757-385-2628	Kempsville Library		

## **NEXTDOOR – OUR COMMUNITY ONLINE NETWORK**

Barb Conyers

One of the most important characteristics of a strong neighborhood is communication among its residents. While we may say hello or wave to a neighbor, we often don't know our neighbors a few blocks away. NEXTDOOR is a private social network for our community that provides the opportunity for community communication. It is endorsed and promoted by the Virginia Beach Police Department, who use it to relay information to Fairfield residents. Currently Fairfield's NEXTDOOR FAIRFIELD has 290 members. It has been a great neighborhood communication tool.

Fairfield residents are using NEXTDOOR to:

- Quickly get the word out about any criminal activity in Fairfield;
- Ask for help in keeping an eye out for a lost dog;
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter;
- Find out who does the best paint job in town; and
- Promote a community activity.

The goal is to make sure every Fairfield resident is informed and has the opportunity to take an active role in our neighborhood. Communication is the key!

If you are not yet a member of NEXTDOOR Fairfield, please go to <https://help.nextdoor.com> to join and learn more. You may also send an email to [fairfieldcl.nw@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldcl.nw@gmail.com) and I will send you an invitation to join NEXTDOOR.

If you are a current member, please invite other Fairfield residents to join. On the top right side of the Nextdoor page (<https://fairfieldvirginiabeach.nextdoor.com>) is an "invite" tab. When you click on the tab it allows you to invite a Fairfield resident to join NEXTDOOR via email or postcard. NEXTDOOR will send out a postcard FREE to the address you pick from the map that comes up. Highlight a couple of those addresses on the map. You do not have to know the person who lives there to send a postcard. We are trying to get the word out about NEXTDOOR. Feel free to use the following message or create one of your own:

"Our neighborhood is using a private online network called NEXTDOOR Fairfield and we think you'll benefit from joining us. On our NEXTDOOR site, neighbors share news of any criminal activity in Fairfield, community events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more. Please join us to build a better neighborhood."

Thank you for your help!

## **FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President	Matt Maxwell	<a href="mailto:MattMaxwell@aol.com">MattMaxwell@aol.com</a>
Vice President	Doug McLiverty	<a href="mailto:doug@fairfieldcivic.org">doug@fairfieldcivic.org</a>
Secretary	Barb Conyers	<a href="mailto:FairfieldCL.NW@gmail.com">FairfieldCL.NW@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Betty Virok	<a href="mailto:bvirok@gmail.com">bvirok@gmail.com</a>
NEXTDOOR	Barb Conyers	<a href="mailto:FairfieldCL.NW@gmail.com">FairfieldCL.NW@gmail.com</a>
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Historic Kempsville CAC	Stephen Mannix	<a href="mailto:steve@fairfieldcivic.org">steve@fairfieldcivic.org</a>

**FAIRFIELD GARDEN CLUB**

<https://www.sites.google.com/site/fairfieldgardenclubva/home>

Fairfield Garden Club's **FALL PLANT SALE is Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., under to old oak tree at 5244 Locke Lane.** Shop the beauty of the fall season with mums, snapdragons, pansies and more. Profit from the bi-annual plant sale supports the maintenance of three neighborhood entry medians (Fairfield Blvd., Locke Lane, and Lord Dunmore - a \$4,000 + cost per year) and insurance for the brick subdivision entrance signs at Fairfield Blvd. and Locke Lane.



***General Information:***

All are welcome to join. Annual dues are \$25. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, unless a fieldtrip is scheduled. Our meetings are held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. We gather at 9:30 a.m. and the program and meeting begin at 10:00 a.m.

***Program Information:***

**October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** - Tour of the Arthur and Phyllis Kaplan Orchid Conservatory. Old Dominion University. No Charge, but donations will be accepted.

**November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** - Demonstration on how to design Thanksgiving centerpieces and how to use fresh fruit and other items from around the house to create tablescapes. No charge unless members want to do a hands-on arrangement, which can cost \$20+ each.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Luncheon at The Founders Inn. Time to be determined.

**January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** - Barbara Brawley (VB Master Gardener) will speak on selection, care, and the use of common and unusual herbs. There is no charge, but a donation to "Master Gardener" for presenting horticulture programs to the community is appreciated.

**February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** - Ruth Burch (Butterfly Society) presenting a program on gardening to attract butterflies, plant selection, and garden design. We will also learn about raising caterpillars and some cage construction ideas. Speaker charge is \$50 plus donations to the "Butterfly Society" will be accepted.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** - Candi Waller (Master Gardener) Vegetable Gardening 101. Includes things to consider when deciding which type of vegetable garden you will have, whether raised bed or a container. There is no charge, but a donation to "Master Gardners" is appreciated.

Please join us for all these wonderful events by detaching and returning the Garden Club Membership form below and mailing it, with payment, to: Mary Butrym, 5263 Jacob Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23464

***MEMBERSHIP INFO***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$25.00 (check #) \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest: Please check all that apply:

Flower Arranging  Gardening  Yard of the Month  Ways & Means  Yearbook

Please list topics you would be interested in having speakers address at the meetings.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

***The Fairfield Civic League Needs You!***

Please fill out the application below and mail it, along with the \$12 membership fee (check made payable to Fairfield Civic League), to the address listed. You may also join at a Civic League Meeting or at the Garden Club Plant sale.

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**2015 – 2016 Fairfield Civic League Membership**

Annual Household Membership Fee ~ \$12

Dues are \$12 per household and membership is valid September 1- August 31, 2016.

If you are not yet a member and would like to join or you are an old member who needs to renew dues, please contact Betty Virok at [bvirok@gmail.com](mailto:bvirok@gmail.com) and/or mail form below:

Names: (Please list all family members):

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail to: Fairfield Civic League, 604 Lord Dunmore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464***

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Please consider joining the Fairfield Civic League for the 2015-2016 season. Dues are \$12 per household and we would like to see every resident of Fairfield be part of THEIR Civic League. Being a part of the Civic League helps develop a greater sense of community among our Fairfield residents, as well as provide the following benefits:

- An organization that shows strong representation as concerns about community issues are voiced to the City. We have all heard the saying “You can’t fight City Hall” but as a collective group, we have a better chance of being heard. There is strength in numbers and a Civic League strong in numbers and activity can provide that strength.
- “Meet Your Neighbor” events are funded, in part, by the Civic League.
- The Newsletter is one of the best ways to keep Fairfield residents informed of issues and upcoming events. The Civic League helps to fund the printing and mailing of the newsletter. It is also an excellent vehicle for local businesses and residents, who are business owners, to promote and advertise their services.
- Who isn’t proud to drive through the neighborhood every Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day and see American flags placed in every yard in Fairfield? The flags are funded by the Fairfield Civic League and put in place by neighborhood volunteers.
- Monetarily, the Civic League contributes to the Garden Club by donating to help with the upkeep of neighborhood entrances. At times, when membership is low, we have not been able to do this because of a lack of financial resources. Join with your neighbors to play a part in beautifying and maintaining the entrances to our neighborhood.

Thanks!