

LAUREL COVE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Laurel Cove Civic League

Dec 2011



Laurel Cove Steps into 2012

Can you believe we're already in the holiday season? Where did the year go? While it seemed summer didn't quite want to let go weather-wise, the calendar is definitely approaching the end of 2011. As we each prepare for the coming year in our own ways, it also marked several key events in our community calendar.

As you recall in the last newsletter I put forth a plea for volunteers to step forward to bring new blood to the board, and a good number of you answered that call! I am very happy to report that we have a full slate for next year's board membership, plus we have filled several key committee leadership positions. At our General Meeting on Thursday 8 December at Church of the Holy Family we formally elected next year's new board members, and I appreciate the thirty plus attendees we had for the meeting that evening. Take a look at the new group of leaders in our community and join us in supporting their efforts to maintain this community as one of the BEST in Virginia Beach!

On Saturday 10 December, Santa once again made his annual visit to our very own Laurel Cove Park for a brief opportunity to meet with the little ones in our neighborhood. The weather was brisk but many of you turned out to take photos and enjoy coffee and treats with your neighbors.

December is also the one month of the year that the Yard of the Month Committee focuses their attention on seasonal decorations as the criteria for recognition for the outstanding front yard in our neighborhood. The judges had a very difficult time selecting one from the many displays in our community, but in the end it was Art and Barbara Walker on North Schooner receiving the nod as the best display this holiday season.

The Laurel Cove Civic League Facebook page is also gathering momentum as an additional source

of information plus a way for residents to interact with one another. If you're a Facebook subscriber, take a look at: [Laurel Cove Facebook](#)

Probably the biggest news of all is that you are holding a piece of history in your hand or reading it on your computer screen. This is the very last newsletter that the LCCL will print and publish in the traditional manner for all. After this edition, our newsletters will go electronic only and will be provided via email to those on the distribution list as well as through our website at www.laurelcove.org. We have provided electronic versions the past edition to our email subscribers, posted previous copies going back several years on our website, and have gotten positive reviews from the readers. As you look through it for the first time, you'll quickly see why:

- It frees us from the limitations of printing costs and the need for volunteer distributors
- Now we can use color pictures and graphics, not only for our articles but also for the advertisements to give them greater clarity and more pizzazz
- Hopefully you noticed the web address I listed earlier in the paragraph is a link you can select and go straight to that website. This transforms the newsletter into an interactive portal for much more than just 20 mere pages, providing the reader a wealth of information with direct access to specific websites in articles and advertisements.

Of course, if a household does not have internet access and has no other means of securing a copy of the newsletter, let us know by contacting one of the officers via their phone numbers and we'll ensure you can still get a hard copy of each edition. Communication remains one of our prime concerns in the Laurel Cove Civic League, and we want each and every household to be connected with our efforts.

Happy Holidays to all and hope to see you in our events as we embark upon 2012!

YARDS OF THE MONTH

The fall and winter have been mild, and many of you have taken advantage of the agreeable growing climate. These are the ones selected by the YOTM Committee for their extra effort the past few months, but in every case the competition was close. Our thanks to all of you that go that extra mile to keeping our community looking great!

***Oct 2011 - Milton & Susan Woodhouse
2236 N Lakeside Dr***



YOTM will return in April 2012



***Nov 2011 – Pat & Debbie Thompson
1286 S Schooner Lane***



***Dec 2011 – Art & Barbara Walker
1304 N Schooner Lane***

**[See more Holiday photos here!](#)
(But only if you're reading this online!)**

Welcome to our Newest Laurel Cove Resident

We would like to welcome a new member to our Laurel Cove Family. We wish them many years of happiness, new memories, and new friends.



Bob & Angie Deacon
2216 Parkside Ct.
Children: Hannah (12) & Elijah (12)

DO YOU HAVE NEW NEIGHBORS?
Please let us know. It's the neighborly thing to do.
Contact Hospitality - hospitality@laurelcove.org

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA BEACH?

The Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Local History Archive is located at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library. This collection honors, preserves and makes accessible the history of Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach. The archival materials are stored in an access, temperature and humidity controlled room. This non-circulating collection contains local history, family history and genealogical materials donated to the Library. The materials are also digitized and made available on the Internet.

Photographs, scrapbooks, postcards, business records, maps, cookbooks, genealogical papers, et al., that pertain to Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach, are collected and made accessible for others to study and enjoy. Family treasures loaned or donated to the Archives are handled in the way that best fits the desires and needs of the owners:

- 1. Materials which owners are willing to share but want returned to them, are digitized, cataloged, placed on the Library's website and then returned to their owner.*
- 2. Materials which are donated to the Library are digitized, cataloged, placed on the Library's website and archived at the MEO Central Library.*

Please contact Ms. Patricia Cook, Virginia Beach's Central Librarian, with any questions or suggestions at (757) 385-0101 or email pcook@vbgov.com

Information from our friends at the Virginia Beach Police Department

Especially during the Holiday Season, there is typically an increase in exposure to email phishing and scams that comes along with the high demand of online transactions. Please consider the following recommendations that can help minimize the security risk in your day to day online experience.

Email phishing scams and malware campaigns may include but are not limited to the following:

- electronic greeting cards that may contain malware
- requests for charitable contributions that may be phishing scams and may originate from illegitimate sources claiming to be charities
- screensavers or other forms of media that may contain malware
- credit card applications that may be phishing scams or identity theft attempts
- online shopping advertisements that may be phishing scams or identity theft attempts from bogus retailers
- Notifications of items shipped from online retailers

Use caution when encountering the types of email messages listed above and to take the following preventative measures to protect themselves from phishing scams and malware campaigns:

- Do not follow unsolicited web links in email messages.
- Use caution when opening email attachments.
- Be suspicious of any e-mail that requires immediate action or creates a sense of urgency.
- Be suspicious of e-mails addressed to “Dear Customer” or some other generic salutation.
- Be suspicious of grammar or spelling mistakes.
- Be suspicious of attachments, only open attachments that you were expecting.
- Just because you received an e-mail from your friend does not always mean they sent it. Your friend’s computer may have been infected or their account may have been compromised, and malware is sending the e-mail to all of your friend’s contacts. If you get a suspicious e-mail from a friend or colleague, call them to confirm they sent it.
- The best practice is if it does not seem right, do not open it, and delete it.

Good Luck and be aware!

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WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH?

- [New Animal Control Facility in Birdneck](#)
- [What will Lynnhaven Area look like in ten years’ time?](#)
- Check out the newly updated website for the City at www.vbgov.com

Dominion Virginia Power Service Reliability Improvement Program Underway in *Laurel Cove*

At the recent Laurel Cove Civic League meeting, representatives from Dominion Virginia Power gave an informative presentation on a major project that is now underway in Laurel Cove to improve electrical service reliability and decrease outage time. They explained that currently, Laurel Cove has a single source of electrical power that runs from the Shell Service Station, under Great Neck Rd, then almost the full length of Laurel Cove Dr. This power line is tied into the smaller transformer boxes throughout the neighborhood that feed individual homes. If there happens to be a break in the power line, all homes lose power beyond the break. For example, if a power line break occurs at the corner of Laurel Cove Dr and Parkside Pl, all homes past Parkside Pl into Laurel Cove would lose power, while those homes closer to Great Neck Rd will still have power.

Dominion Virginia Power is going to add a second or new source of power and will create a loop. Electrical power will then be supplied from both sources and if a break occurs in the loop, only a few homes in the vicinity of the break will lose power. In order to provide a second source of power, new cable must be installed using directional drilling. Click [here](#) to view map showing where the new cable will be placed. Home owners most affected by this project should have been notified or will be notified by Dominion Virginia Power of their projected work schedule. The Trafford Corporation is laying the cable and projected to be completed by January 1, 2012. Dominion Virginia Power will come in after the cable has been installed to connect the power cable to the residential transformers. Dominion Virginia Power expects to be completed by mid-February 2012. There may be short duration power outages during the actual connection to the transformers. If anyone has any problems during this project, feel free to contact the following Dominion Virginia Power personnel

- Contacts
 - Bill Sleasman Project Manager 757-393-3980
 - Blake Bristol Project Designer 757-393-3981

Your Laurel Cove Civic League Officers for 2012

Elected at the 8 Dec 2012 General Meeting

- President: Ms. Michele Simmons
- 1st VP: Mr. Austen Lynn
- 2nd VP: Mr. Michael McCormick
- Treasurer: Mr. Sam Miles
- Secretary: Ms. Wanda Wilson
- Director: Ms. Ann Copeland
- Director: Ms. Barbara Malla
- Director: Mr. Michael Winner
- Director: Mr. Michael White

INCIDENTS OF VALDALISM IN LAUREL COVE

It seems several of you fell victim earlier this month to random acts of vandalism and harassment to your property. One of our board members has provided the following list to consider as we face this latest unfortunate impact to our community:

1. Motion-detecting lights are often a deterrent. If you can park close to the garage, then the lights will come on whenever someone approaches within a certain radius. Lights on timers are also helpful.
2. Be a presence on your street. Get to know your neighbors, be observant, and band together to keep an eye on each other's property.
3. If possible, try to vary your routine, so if anyone is casing your house, there will be no discernible pattern that they can use to do mischief when they know you won't be home.
4. As mentioned previously, report vandalism and other suspicious activity to police.
5. If an increased police presence is not effective, or if anyone wants to go this route immediately, you can hire a P.I. who will do surveillance for videoing/photographing the guilty party in the act. It's not cheap, though, and there's no guarantee as to when, where, or if the vandals will strike again.
6. Document anything that seems "off".

Remember the two most important points are to be observant and report any and all incidents to the Police. We cannot allow a few bored miscreants to threaten our homes and community. Spread the word and be alert! Let's work together to make this a happy holidays for all of us!

**NO MORE LCCL NEWSLETTERS ON YOUR DOORSTEP!!
REGISTER YOUR EMAIL TODAY AND DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!!**

What happened to the advertisements?

Along with the newsletter change to electronic, we are also going to develop a new advertisement policy and procedures to take advantage of the new format. Once we establish a sizing and pricing structure we will be notifying previous advertisers and potential new ones. With the ability to provide full color and links to websites for more information, advertising in the Laurel Cove Newsletter will be an even greater voice to the community! Contact us as boardmembers@laurelcove.org if you have any questions or concerns.

SEE SANTA-IN-THE-PARK PHOTOS HERE!



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VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

As we start a new year in Laurel Cove we will begin to plan out our annual social events (Easter Bunny, 4th of July, Meet & Greet, and Santa) plus devise spring plans for the front entrance and other projects we may want to begin to help sustain and improve our community. All of this is fueled by residents like you providing a few hours per month or per event to make it happen. Please offer whatever time you can spare when the call goes out, and if you have any ideas you can share contact us at boardmembers@laurelcove.org

IS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS REGISTERED WITH THE LCCL?

If not, you probably missed the latest vandalism alerts, the lost dog that was returned to its owner, the missing cell phone that found its way home, why those fire trucks roared through the neighborhood the other night, and countless other updates that registered email addresses receive from our officers.

We share the addresses with NO ONE. We do not fill your inboxes with SPAM like advertisements, want ads, questionable humor and those chains your Aunt keeps sending you. We only put out information that affects and/or supports everyone in this community, and we constantly check to ensure we stay on that course.

CONTACT US AT boardmembers@laurelcove.org TODAY OR INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH NEXT YEAR'S DUES PAYMENT!

LET'S ALL STAY CONNECTED!