

Farmington Civic Association

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The President's Letter

Hello, Farmington Neighbors!

John Wooden once said "working with others makes us much more than we could ever become alone." This quote encapsulates the purpose and the importance of our civic association.

Board and non-board FCA members alike have been working together on multiple projects. That includes the Garden Club, who always do great work beautifying the median and entrance. They certainly were eager to get to work once the flower bed was repaired from the last median incident. As you may have noticed, the work to repair the entrance column and flower bed has been completed. In addition, members of the executive board have been working on a list of functions for the block captains as we work towards a long-term strategy of making their role more visible in the community. Thank you to all who completed the resident survey! The board is currently working on reviewing the feedback and readjusting plans based on that feedback.

If you have overlooked paying your 2024 membership dues, it is not too late. We appreciate your support. Payments can be mailed to the P.O. Box or sent via PayPal from our FCA website). Membership is only \$50/yearly, a low ask for the myriad benefits of the civic association, including the lovely landscaping on the medians, events, this newsletter, and many other things. Thank you to all who have paid your dues and are doing the work of making this neighborhood a wonderful place to live.

Stay safe and see you around the neighborhood,

Connie Vatsa, President

Graduate Median Recognition and Scholarship

The FCA is excited to celebrate our high school graduates.
We wish them the best of luck in their next endeavors.



- **Natalie Simone Fairfax** graduated from Kecoughtan High School with Highest Honors and a 4.26 GPA. She was active in 6 honors societies: NHS (National Honors Society), Math Honors Society, Science Honors Society, Social Studies Honors Society, English Honors Society and Art Honors Society. She is also an active member with the historic First Baptist Church of Hampton. Natalie received an Achievers Merit Scholarship with Howard University, where she will major in political science.
- **Daylon Demetrious Smith** graduated from Bethel High School with Highest Honors. He was a member of the NHS. He played varsity soccer for 4 years and was the captain of the team. He will be attending UVA in the fall.
- **Jeremiah Fitzgerald** graduated from Bethel High School
- **Peter Tran** graduated from Peninsula Catholic High School
- **Janette Kylie Rose Gayle** graduated from Menchville High School
- **Zaria Milligan** graduated from Bethel High School. She was a member of the Bethel tennis team and was a regional quarter finalist for singles. She received the Virginia Achievers Scholarship from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she will be studying chemical engineering.

Connie Vatsa, FCA President

COMMUNITY YARDSALE

The Farmington Civic Association (FCA) will sponsor a yard sale day for all Farmington residents on 5 Oct 2024. Advertised times will be from 8am-2pm. FCA will purchase the permit and do all advertising.

***Residents will operate their own yard sale from the comfort of their yards:
no need to haul your for-sale items to a central location.***

What you need to do: Submit your name and address to farmingtonhptva@gmail.com by 20 Aug 2024. The permit application requires names and addresses. If you would also like to include what types of things you will be selling (furniture, baby items, clothes, purses, tools, misc., etc.) that will help with advertising.

What FCA will do: Buy the permit and advertise via Nextdoor, city calendar, newspaper, and street signs. FCA will have flyers available at entrance with participant addresses and sale items. FCA will also arrange for a charity truck to pick up unsold items for donation on Mon 7 Oct 2024.

Pam Kelly, FCA Board

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Since the last newsletter, the FCA has hosted two General Membership meetings. The first was on Monday, April 22nd, with Jason Mitchell, Director of Public Works, as the featured speaker. The second, focusing on community issues with no featured speaker, was on Tuesday, May 28th. As always, the meetings took place at the Northampton Community Center.



**MR. MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS,
ADDRESSES THE RESIDENTS OF FARMINGTON**

April's meeting with the Director of Public Works was well-attended. Mr. Mitchell spoke briefly of his long stint at Public Works (he started as an equipment operator there in 1994 and performed several jobs and functions before becoming Director in 2019) before opening the floor to questions, of which there were many from our Farmington Residents. There were numerous questions regarding waste disposal. Residents were instructed to not bring trash containers to the street sooner than 3pm the day before collection, to remove doors from fridges and stoves before leaving them on the curb (so that children will not get trapped inside), and to call the city helpline (311) for instructions on disposal of any unusual items (e.g., since concrete blocks are so heavy, it's asked they be brought directly to city facilities by the resident: please call 311 for details). Mitchell answered a question about medications, saying his dept doesn't handle collecting them, but that the Hampton PD has a program for that. Shifting topics from waste disposal, Mitchell also answered questions regarding foxes and raccoons (call 311, who will direct you to Animal Control), street sweeping (please call 311 if there are curbs that are being missed by the sweeper), and what he views as one of the biggest issues in the city (speeding in residential areas).

May's meeting was meant to address the concerns of local residents, and there was a lively, civil discussion on neighborhood topics, with no featured speaker to take away from the concerns of residents.

One of the recurring themes of the meeting was the question of how to send important information to the entire neighborhood. The idea of a neighborhood flyer, left under everyone's doormats, was endorsed by many, though there were questions as to who would be doing the actual delivery, as there are many residents of Farmington. What exactly would be in the flyer was also under discussion, including information re: the various neighborhood covenants, as well as the importance of regular lawn maintenance. Names were taken of interested residents who would help craft the message of this neighborhood flyer.

Various other ideas for activities included the following: an annual summer block party, an informal free book exchange box located somewhere in the neighborhood and a neighborhood yard sale (there has been progress on the idea of the yard sale: please see the news item elsewhere in this issue's newsletter!)

Your attendance is encouraged for all future General Membership meetings: you never know who will be speaking or what topics of local interest your neighbors will raise.

Vik Vatsa, Editor

From May '23 to May '24: The Garden Club Year in Review



Starting from the upper left and going clockwise:
 Newest Distinguished Member Honorees: Vivian Simmons,
 Flo Mejia, and Joyce Edwards; Tanya Frasier; Beverly Mckinzie;
 Members created fall centerpieces; Previously honored
 Distinguished Members of FGC: Oretha Watkins,
 Vivian Simmons, Joyce Edwards; Lifelong Citizenship Awards
 Honorees: Vivian Simmons and Joyce Edwards



Starting from the upper left and going clockwise:
 Gardner of the Year: Betty Mixon;
 Lohrer Mise and Doris Roland attended PCGC;
 End of the Year celebration at 2nd Street Bistro

The FGC (Farmington Garden Club) has had a productive year. The year began with the installation of the new Administrative Team for 2023-2025. The team worked diligently during the summer planning activities for the upcoming year. From May 2023 to December 2023, the Yard of the Month committee nominated, selected, and awarded gift cards to the winners. During our meeting in September, members shared gardening tips and recognized two more of its members, Beverly Mckinzie and Flo Mejia, as Distinguished Members. Oreta Watkins, Vivian Simmons, and Joyce Edwards were given this same honor in previous years. Also, Joyce Edwards and Vivian Simmons were honored during the Lifelong Citizenship Awards Program, sponsored by Newport News Parks and Rec. Club members created fall centerpieces in October. In December, members decorated the front entrance of Farmington, recognized the Holiday Yard of the Month winner, and ended the month with a luncheon at Schlesinger's Steakhouse. February 2024 took us to the home of Beverly Mckinzie for a luncheon. During this time, Beverly shared her extensive knowledge of plants, from pruning crepe myrtles to preserving hydrangeas. In March, the club was introduced to Tanya Frazier, owner of Gracefully Designs and a resident of Farmington, who instructed members on how to create a spring bouquet. April's activity focused on the entrance to our neighborhood. While waiting for the entrance to be repaired, members cleaned the area, which gave it a more presentable look. For May, members attended the installation of the new officers for the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs. The year concluded in May with dinner at Second Street American Bistro in Newport News. At this time, Betty Mixon was honored as the Farmington Garden Club's "Gardener of the Year".

2023-2025 FGC Administrative Team

Executive Team.....Robert Bender, Doris Roland, Regina Smith
 Secretary.....Louella Pittman, Bonita Williams
 Treasurer.....Betty Mixon

Lohrer Mise, Contributor

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