

Farmington Civic Association

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P.O. Box 7273, Hampton, VA 23666

The President's Letter

Hello, Farmington Neighbors!

Winston Churchill once said "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Certainly, the members of the FCA are giving to this community and making a life.

The members of the board have been hard at work. Thank you to all who assisted with the holiday decorations at the front entrance, including members of the Garden Club. The board was happy to take on the responsibility of the holiday decorating contest this year (with thanks to the Garden Club for the years of organizing this contest). We are hoping to have a block party on May 17th, so please save the date. In addition, we have been working on yet another repair at the entrance. The most recent accident resulted in only minor injuries to one of our residents (and for that we are grateful), but the sign and column need significant repairs. Our neighbor was the victim of a hit-and-run, and as of this writing it would appear the at-fault driver did not have insurance and therefore we do not have an insurance company to file a claim with. We have been lucky that for the previous repairs an insurance company covered the full cost of the repairs. The estimated cost of repairs is significantly higher than the board's current financial means. We are currently looking into an option for a grant but it is not clear how likely it is we could get approved for the grant.

We appreciate your support. Payments can be mailed to the P.O. Box or done via PayPal from our website). Membership is only \$60/yearly, a low ask for the myriad benefits of the civic association, including the lovely upkeep and beautification on the medians, events, this newsletter, and many other things. Thank you to all who support the work of making this neighborhood a wonderful place to live.

In the interest of looking out for each other, I want to let you know that several residents have been fined for putting their trash to the curb too early or leaving their bins at the curb after pickup for too long. Trash/recycling bins, bulk trash, and yard waste should be placed at the curb no sooner than 3 p.m. the day before pickup and removed by midnight day of pickup, per city regulations.

Happy New Year and see you around the neighborhood,

Connie Vatsa, President

JOIN THE FCA BOARD!

In light of current vacancies, the FCA Executive Board is looking to add new members. We are looking for the following positions: **membership chair, youth member, secretary, and member-at-large**. Please consider joining the board and experiencing many of the benefits of helping your community.

According to happiness.com, the benefits of volunteerism go both ways.

Volunteering helps volunteers in the following ways:

1. Connecting with others – volunteering can be a fun way to meet new people and make new friends
2. Building confidence and self-esteem – doing good for others creates a sense of accomplishment
3. Boosting physical health – a 1999 study showed highly active volunteers had a 63 percent lower mortality rate than non-volunteers
4. Boosting mental health – volunteering can help counteract the effects of stress, depression, and anxiety
5. Providing a sense of purpose – volunteering helps address social issues, which in turn can help build purpose and boost your own happiness.

Reach out if you would like to discuss the possibility of joining the board at farmingtonhptva@gmail.com or 757-344-2540.

Dog Safety

[Editor's note: this article was inspired by a recent dog attack in the neighborhood. Thankfully, the injuries sustained were minor.]



Keep the following tips in mind while you're out with your dog:

- Keep your dog on a leash as it is required in the City of Hampton. Even if your dog has great recall and rarely leaves your side, leash laws still apply to you and your dog. Other people have no idea about your dog's temperament, and they might be walking a dog with reactivity or anxiety issues, or they may be afraid of dogs themselves. Keep off-leash time for the places where it's both safe and allowed (e.g., the dog park)
- Keep your dog close when you pass other people or dogs on the sidewalk. You want to respect other people's personal space. The leash can also be a tripping hazard for others. If your dog is reactive or nervous around other dogs or people, cross the street to give everyone more space.
- Ask permission before allowing your dog to greet people or greet other dogs. If somebody says no, respect their answer regardless of how friendly or excited your dog may be. If they say yes, be sure you've taught your dog how to greet politely. Overly enthusiastic greetings can be offputting to both people and dogs.

Tips c/o an article on the American Kennel Club website By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

BLOCK CAPTAINS WANTED

Block captains are a vital part of our neighborhood—they foster community spirit, enhance safety, and facilitate communications. The FCA is currently working on a re-organization of block divisions; however, we do need more block captains to ensure all areas of the neighborhood have a captain. If you are interested in serving as a block captain or would like more information to help decide please contact our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, **Robert Caldwell at robertac61@yahoo.com**.



Winter Holiday Decoration Winners

The Farmington Civic Association (FCA) is very pleased to announce the Pauley Family at 3 Farmington Blvd as the winner of our Holiday Decorating Contest! Their holiday decorations were truly beautiful, and we are happy to give them this recognition.



The Pauleys receive their award, flanked by FCA board members Pam Kelly on the right and Doris Roland on the left

Thank you to those who submitted nominations. The contest committee enjoyed touring the neighborhood to see the nominees and the many others who have decorated this holiday season.

To all our neighbors, the members of the FCA Executive Board hope the warmth of the holiday season filled your home with happiness and joy. We can't wait to see all of your decorations next holiday season!

Garden Club News!

Future Events:

February: Tour of Hampton History Museum and Luncheon at the Grey Goose

March: Terrarium/Succulent Plants and Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs

April: Tour of Bluebird Gap Farm

May: Installation of New Officers

In addition to the planned events for the spring, there are plenty of reasons to join the Garden Club. Meet your neighbors! Grow your knowledge about flowers and other plants, all while beautifying the neighborhood (which only increases the value of your home!). Make friends, de-stress, and learn new gardening tips, all for a nominal joining fee. Interested in joining? Contacts are below!

Doris Roland: dorisroland@verizon.net

Regina Smith: jasrgs@aol.com

Robert Bender: atrover4716@yahoo.com

FCA SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The FCA is excited to announce our second annual scholarship opportunity for students graduating from high school this year (who reside in active Farmington Civic Association households). We plan to award two \$500 scholarships. For an application, please email the FCA at farmingtonhptva@gmail.com. The deadline for applications is April 15th.



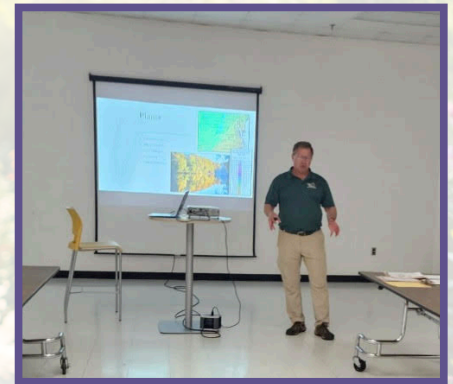
Recent Garden Club Activities



Betty-Kounce Johnson selects gift during gift exchange at the Schooners holiday luncheon.



Members create fall floral designs.



Nate Brauner, Master Gardener, presents information on winter-prepping our yards.

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