

Farmington Civic Association

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The President's Letter

Hello, Farmington Neighbors!

As we welcome the New Year, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy, and hopeful for the months ahead. A new year is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on where we've been and to look forward to what we can accomplish together as a community.

Over the past year, our civic association has continued working to maintain and improve our neighborhood through our picnic, ice cream social, security camera warranty replacements, block party, high school graduate scholarship, repairs to the sprinkler system, community yard sale, upkeep of the medians and entrance, organizing speakers for the general membership meetings, and pursuit of repairs for the entrance. These efforts would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the support of our residents. Thank you to everyone who has given their time, ideas, and energy to help make our community stronger.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we are focused on the repairs to the entrance and organizing community events. The Farmington Civic Association (FCA) has applied for a grant with the city on the repairs and is eagerly awaiting a response on our application. Whether you're interested in attending meetings, volunteering, or simply staying informed, your involvement is always welcome and appreciated. Fresh ideas and new faces help keep our association moving forward.

As we begin the year, I'd also like to remind residents that association dues are essential to funding neighborhood maintenance, events, and community improvements. If you have not yet paid your dues, please consider doing so. Your support allows us to continue serving the entire community effectively. Annual dues are only \$60. Check or money order can be sent to the FCA at P.O. Box 7273, Hampton, VA 23666 or through PayPal from the link on our website.

Thank you for being part of our neighborhood and for starting the New Year with a shared commitment to keeping it a great place to live. I look forward to working together and seeing what we can achieve in the year ahead.

Warm Regards,

Connie Vatsa, President

Understanding Our Neighborhood Association



The Civic Association encourages open dialogue between neighbors and city representatives.

From time to time, questions arise about how our neighborhood civic association works and what role it plays in our community. To help keep everyone informed, we'd like to share a brief overview of what it means to be part of a civic association and how our organization differs from a homeowners association.

A Civic Association: Voluntary and Community-Focused

Our neighborhood is supported by a civic association, which is a voluntary group of residents who come together to strengthen our community. Unlike a homeowners association, a civic association does not have the authority to enforce rules or issue fines. Instead, civic associations focus on advocating neighborhood interests with local officials, improving communication among residents, organizing events and activities that bring neighbors together, supporting beautification and quality-of-life initiatives, and encouraging collaboration and community pride. Participation and dues are voluntary, and involvement is always welcomed at whatever level works best for each household.

How This Differs from a Homeowners Association

A homeowners association (HOA) is a legal entity with the ability to enforce mandatory membership and enforce contractually-bound rules tied to property ownership. Our neighborhood does not operate in this way. We are not governed by restrictions enforced by an association. Understanding this distinction helps clarify what residents can expect from the association and how they can choose to participate.

Why a Civic Association Matters

While a civic association does not enforce rules, it plays an important role in giving residents a collective voice, fostering communication, and promoting a sense of community. Many neighborhood improvements and successful initiatives begin with residents working together through a civic association. Our goal is simple: to support a connected, informed, and welcoming neighborhood where neighbors look out for one another. If you're interested in learning more, sharing ideas, or getting involved, we invite you to join us at a meeting or reach out to a board member. Your participation helps shape the future of our community.



The FCA Board's own Rodney Ellis, who helps hang up the seasonal banners in the neighborhood every quarter, was mistakenly referred to as "Rodney Mils" in last issue's newsletter. The editor regrets the error. Thank you, Rodney!

Winter Decoration Winners



The winning decorations



Congrats to Dr. Jerry and Lolita McMillan



The McMillans and Pam Kelly, from the FCA Board

Once again, the FCA (Farmington Civic Association) sponsored a decorations contest for the recent winter holiday. As always, there were many beautifully decorated homes all across Farmington. Unfortunately, only one home could be recognized as the winner. This season, the honor goes to Dr. Jerry and Lolita McMillan of 51 Estate Drive. The FCA offers them the heartiest of congratulations!

Vik Vatsa, Newsletter Editor

CALL FOR BLOCK CAPTAINS

The recently-completed Farmington Survey had one piece of clear feedback: "do better in communicating with all neighbors." One way to improve communication is through an active "Block Captain" Program. Block Captains can facilitate clear/concise communication through one-on-one discussions with their own neighbors.

Currently, we have fewer than 10 Block Captains for the more than 400 houses in our neighborhood; for that reason, it is difficult to facilitate communication between the FCA (Farmington Civic Association) and residents effectively. We are seeking 25 Block Captains to service different sections of the neighborhood. Block Captains are expected to push announcements to their assigned areas of the neighborhood on a quarterly basis, with two in-person meetings annually.

If you are interested in joining the Team, please send an email to farmingtonhptva@gmail.com. For questions about the Block Captain positions, contact the **Lead Block Captain, Robert Caldwell, at 757-329-6300.**



Farmington Garden Club



Members crafted pine cone bird feeders in October's meeting



The Farmington Garden Club looks forward to a robust 2026. In September, Joann Smith, a Master Gardener, provided tips on propagation. Club members spruced up various sections of the median along Farmington Boulevard by removing weeds and planting flowers. During October's meeting, members made pine cone birdfeeders under the direction of Jerome(Jerri) Chambers and Alice Lockley. Latoya Jefferson, an expert on herbs, provided a wealth of information on medicinal herbs in November. The Garden Club completed 2025 with a holiday luncheon at Surf Riders in Hampton, where members played games, exchanged white elephant gifts, and enjoyed good food. Members also aided in decorating the front entrance of Farmington for the holiday. FGC looks forward to a continuation of its agenda in January-May 2026.

Our club is seeking new members, so if you are looking for a sense of purpose--whether you are retired, new to the community, looking to connect, or love gardening--consider joining FGC. The club meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to May. Dues are \$35.

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Lohrer Mise, Farmington Resident



The club enjoyed a holiday luncheon in December

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