

Farmington Civic Association

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Block Party

The FCA (Farmington Civic Association) is looking forward to hosting a neighborhood block party on **Saturday May 16th from 12pm-4pm on Castle Haven in the field under the power lines**

(rain date May 30th). We expect a fire truck, some wildlife (owls and maybe more?), and face painting. We encourage neighbors to bring chairs for themselves and a table if possible, as the FCA may only have a limited amount tables, chairs, and tents. To ensure we make enough food, we kindly ask for an RSVP at farmingtonhptva@gmail.com that includes the number of people in your household that will be attending. This is a free event for residents: Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Attention, Farmington Teens!

The newsletter would like to publish/showcase the views of its younger residents. What is one thing you wish the older residents of Farmington understood about this neighborhood or the city of Hampton at large? It could be a hardship you think is flying under our radar, something amazing you think the rest of us are missing out on, or something else entirely. Submissions can be as short as a paragraph, or as long as 400 words. We look forward to hearing from you! Send submissions to farmingtonhptva@gmail.com by June 17th! Please include your first and last name so we can publish it in your byline!

Farmington Garden Club

Despite the cold weather, the Farmington Garden Club (FGC) had an eventful winter. Beverly Mckinzie and Victor Towns hosted January's meeting. Members shared garden stories and increased their knowledge of plants, using a Question and Answer format. In February, FGC celebrated Black History with a luncheon at the Holly Tree, followed by a tour of the Black History Museum on the campus of Hampton University. In March, FGC provided the main entrees for the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs, which met at the Junior Women's Club in Hilton Village, Newport News. Nate Brauner, a master gardener, shared knowledge of mosquitoes--how to keep them from breeding, how to combat them, and how to protect oneself from them. April included a tour of James Landing, a celebration of Earth Day, and a seminar on growing your own food. Plans for the club are underway for May.

Upcoming events: mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 19th, when the club will host the FGC End-of-the Year Celebration!

The FGC welcomed two new members, Brenda Hill and Michele Barnes. Contact the following persons, or any other garden club member, if you are interested in joining.

Lohrer Mise: lohrer.mise@gmail

Doris Roland: dsroland@verizon.net

Regina Smith: jasrgs@aol.com

And remember! "Gardening is hard work but so much fun."

Lohrer Mise, Farmington Resident and FGC member



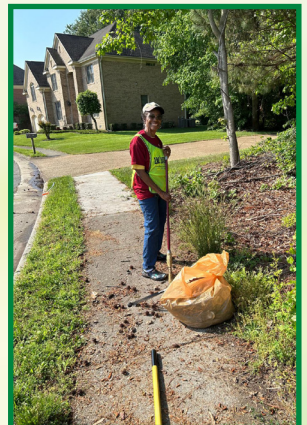
A picture from January's membership meeting

Clean Sweep

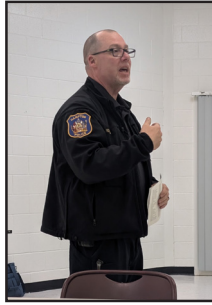
Hampton's 6th Annual Clean Sweep initiative took place the morning of Saturday, April 25th. For the first time, Farmington took part in the action and close to a dozen volunteers came together to clean up the neighborhood. Good news: the neighborhood was so clean, a handful of us wandered over to the neighborhood next door to clean up there, too!

According to the organizer, Joe Griffith: "Volunteers gathered up 2.5 tons of trash in an area of 7.5 square miles. One eighth of the entire city. Or for comparison, that's an area equal to the canal city of Venice, Italy!" Farmington was happy to do its part this year, and we hope to make it a yearly tradition.

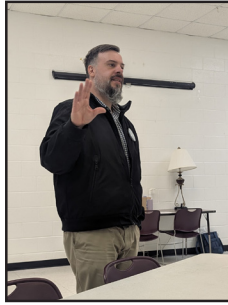
Pictured below are snaps of some of our diligent volunteers.



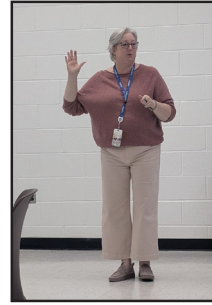
February/April General Membership Meetings



Officer Birdsong



*Joe Griffith
encouraged us to
clean up Hampton*



*Zandy Amor
informed residents
about the utility of 311*

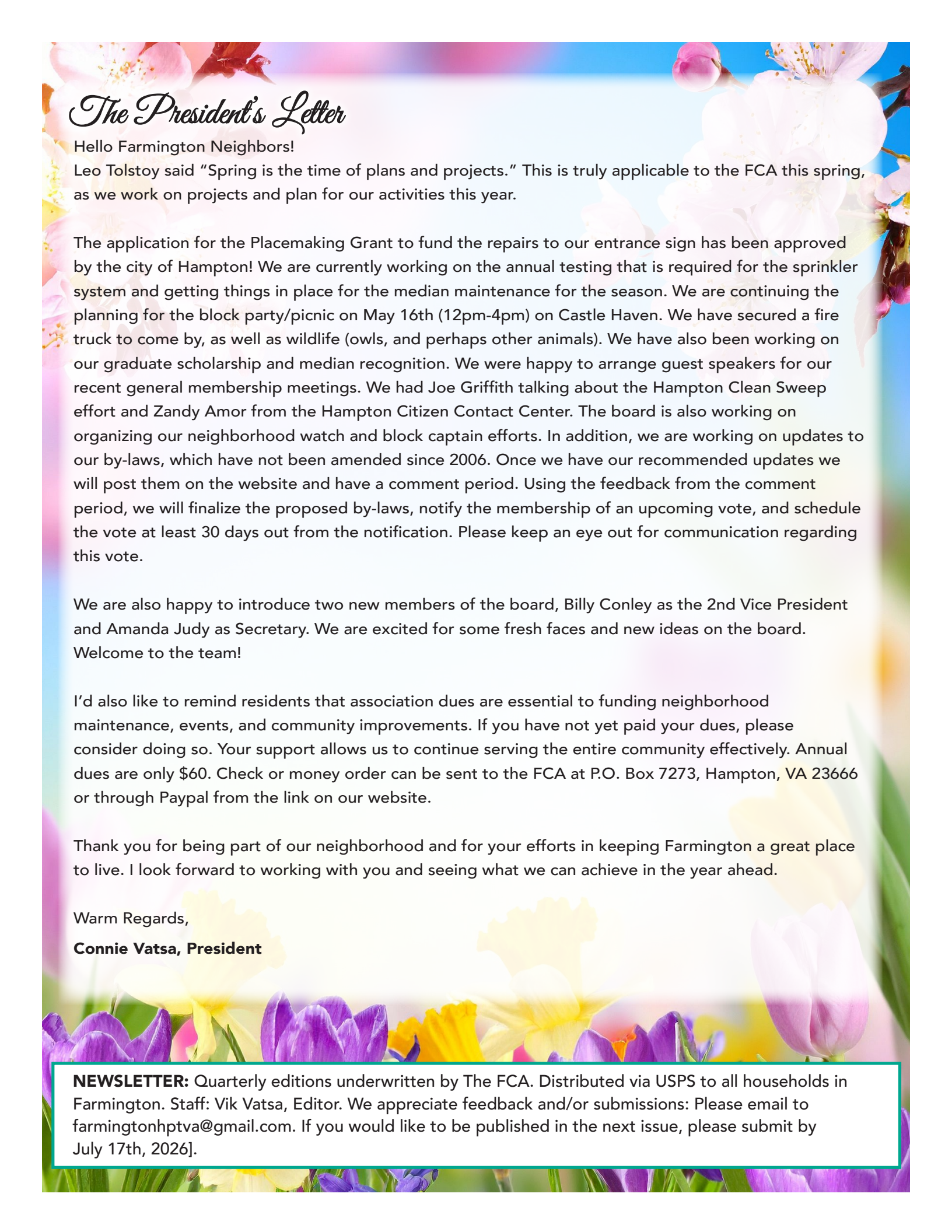
The FCA held General Membership meetings in the Northampton Community Center on Feb 25th and March 30th.

The Feb meeting started off with a recap of the recent FCA Election results. 2nd Vice President Cynthia Watson did not run for reelection and Bill Conley is our new 2nd VP! The rest of the officer roster and board makeup remained the same. The latest on the Placemaking Grant was covered (see The President's Letter in this issue for the latest!). Hampton PD Officer Birdsong was present and went through the recent calls the PD has responded to in our neighborhood. In all, there were 33 calls in the last 30 days, which included: 3 domestics, 3 burglar alarms, 1 parking complaint, 1 call to the Community Service Board (CSB), 1 harassment call, and 2 welfare checks. He referred residents to the website <https://communitycrimemap.com> if they wanted more information on local crime statistics. The information is very similar to what the PD has, with some personally identifiable information redacted. If you have any questions for the local police, showing up to a general membership meeting is a good way to get those questions answered—Officer Birdsong attends most of our meetings!

Next, Joe Griffith of Phoebus addressed the crowd to recruit for volunteers for his 6th Annual Clean Sweep event where Hampton residents from all over the city band together to dispose of trash and keep our city clean. Joe recruited a number of volunteers during the meeting who signed up for the event, which took place on Saturday, April 25th.

April's meeting hosted Zandy Amor, who works for the City of Hampton's 3-1-1 service. If you're unfamiliar, 311 is a service that routes residents directly to the non-emergency city services they need—be it sanitation, animal control, or public works. Potholes, faulty traffic lights, city code violations, all of them can be reported over 311. You can reach them through the city's app (search for "311 Hampton VA" in your app store), 311@hampton.gov, 311 on a landline, or 757-727-8311 on a cell. You can also text 1-888-306-8124. They will take voice calls from 7am-11pm 7 days a week! You should get a response to your requests/questions within 1 business day; if you don't get a response in that time, please follow up! Zandy took questions, including one about sidewalks being blocked by trees or shrubs (this is a violation of city code—please contact 311 if you run into this issue). Fun fact: Hampton was the first locality in all of Virginia to have its own centralized 3-1-1 call center! Councilwoman Campbell was also in attendance and took questions. On the real estate tax rate, she said the rate went up as high as it did b/c a survey that was sent out got mostly replies to allow for more revenue. Please make your voice heard next year before the budget is ironed out if you would like to have an effect on the tax rate. She also encouraged disputing the assessment on your home if you feel it's inaccurate.

Vik Vatsa, Newsletter Editor



The President's Letter

Hello Farmington Neighbors!

Leo Tolstoy said "Spring is the time of plans and projects." This is truly applicable to the FCA this spring, as we work on projects and plan for our activities this year.

The application for the Placemaking Grant to fund the repairs to our entrance sign has been approved by the city of Hampton! We are currently working on the annual testing that is required for the sprinkler system and getting things in place for the median maintenance for the season. We are continuing the planning for the block party/picnic on May 16th (12pm-4pm) on Castle Haven. We have secured a fire truck to come by, as well as wildlife (owls, and perhaps other animals). We have also been working on our graduate scholarship and median recognition. We were happy to arrange guest speakers for our recent general membership meetings. We had Joe Griffith talking about the Hampton Clean Sweep effort and Zandy Amor from the Hampton Citizen Contact Center. The board is also working on organizing our neighborhood watch and block captain efforts. In addition, we are working on updates to our by-laws, which have not been amended since 2006. Once we have our recommended updates we will post them on the website and have a comment period. Using the feedback from the comment period, we will finalize the proposed by-laws, notify the membership of an upcoming vote, and schedule the vote at least 30 days out from the notification. Please keep an eye out for communication regarding this vote.

We are also happy to introduce two new members of the board, Billy Conley as the 2nd Vice President and Amanda Judy as Secretary. We are excited for some fresh faces and new ideas on the board. Welcome to the team!

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 your efforts in keeping Farmington a great place to live. I look forward to working with you and seeing what we can achieve in the year ahead.

Warm Regards,

Connie Vatsa, President

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