



the Legacy the Legacy

A journal of the lake Christopher homes association
July - August 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Richard Schwartz, President
Sally Parsons, Vice president
Karen Cagni, Treasurer
Donna Christensen, Secretary
Gary Butterbaugh, Maintenance
Linda Hayes, Directory
Greg Huhn, Social, Lake
maintenance
Elias Logothetis, Litter Control
Sharon White, Landscape
Richard Lindgren, Neighborhood
Watch
Jenny Pfeiffer, Park Attendants
Steve Rogovich, Architecture

Property Manager

Gayle Pinero
The Select Group
2224 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Suite 201,
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
Phone: 486-6000 FAX: 486-6988
EMAIL:
gpinero@theselectgroup.us

PLACE AN AD IN THE LEGACY

Want ads, For Sales, Lost and
Founds, and small service ads are
free to Lake Christopher Residents.
Business ads are \$15 per issue or
\$75 for six issues for a Business
Card size ad.
Call Donna Christensen, 495-3996
for more information. **Deadline for
the September issue is August
23rd.**

Website:

Lakechristopherhomes.com

Lake Christopher Homes Association 4TH OF JULY PICNIC...

We would like to thank the following individuals for making the 2012
4th of July picnic a complete success.

- Patrick Byrd – The Best DJ in town
- Pungo Catering – excellent food
- Sharon White for donating some very nice door prizes.
- Mary Jane Quesnel – for help in collecting money, and help at the picnic
- Bill Rainey, Bob Cantrell, Clark Christensen, Elias Logothetis, Rich Lindgren, Jackie Powell, Sally Parsons and others who set up and took down the tables and tents. (Rich also set out all the flags.)
- Patty Rapp for serving the cake.
- Jenny and Markus Pfeiffer and Donna Christensen for filling in the blanks.
- Karen Cagni and Providence Presbyterian Church for supplying ice and helping prepare drinks.
- Greg Huhn (The kahuhna), party coordinator, for such a nice party on a tight budget.

We would welcome your thoughts and suggestions for next year's party. Contact us with your input.

NUTRIA PROBLEM

Killed by Thousands, Varmint Will Never Quit

Published: July 5, 2012

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. — A web-footed rodent akin to muskrats and beavers, the nutria has a voracious appetite that wreaks havoc on the bay's ecosystem.

Nutria colonies once riddled the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, an ecologically fragile reserve on the Delmarva Peninsula, the nearly 200-mile-long isthmus between the bay and the Atlantic Ocean that includes parts of Maryland and Delaware and a sliver of Virginia. Over the past decade, trappers with a federal eradication program have come tantalizingly close to eliminating them, making Delmarva a closely watched example for other nutria-plagued regions, including the Gulf Coast and the Pacific Northwest.

But they have proved to be a cunning and resilient adversary. Despite the program's undisputed success, nutria have unexpectedly turned up recently in pockets along rivers like the Manokin, a distant pond in Delaware, and a marsh near the Virginia border where they had not been

HOMEOWNERS' FORUM...

is held at the beginning of each Board meeting, on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M.

Please call our Property Manager, Gayle Piñero, at 486-6000 for meeting location.

EMAIL UPDATES...

Help us keep everyone up to date. Please ask your neighbors who may not be receiving email messages to let us know their email information in order to receive the most recent changes, and communications from the Board. They can use the form below or email Donna at cldochris@earthlink.net. Also, please send any changes in your own information to us as soon as possible. Thanks.

Please fill out this form and drop it off to: Donna Christensen, 1441 Lake Christopher Drive or email: cldochris@earthlink.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

(for directory use only)

Email: _____

spotted for a decade.

Wildlife officials in Delaware are watching with worry, as are those in Virginia, unnerved by a recent report of nutria close to their sliver of the Delmarva. There are also growing colonies on the coast near Virginia Beach that could migrate to ecologically sensitive areas, said Michael L. Fies, wildlife research biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Tactics are evolving accordingly, turning the peninsula into a testing ground for techniques to combat the nocturnal nutria. Infrared cameras record their nighttime movements and how they react to lures concocted from scent glands. There are training dogs to sniff out "nutes," as the team calls them.

Technology is supplementing time-tested trapping methods. Surgeons have implanted radio transmitters into captive "Judas" nutria to lead them to new colonies. Trackers like Mr. Dawson collect fur from "hair snares" for lab analysis. Satellite positioning marks the location of droppings and footprints. The team's leader, Stephen R. Kendrot, jokingly calls their headquarters "the war room." The project has yielded some startling results: nutria tracked with radio collars can travel miles in one night. Their tenacity has earned grudging admiration from the men and women prowling the waterways in pursuit.

"They're a pretty amazing species, actually. I've developed a lot of respect for them over the years," said Mr. Kendrot, the eradication project's supervisory wildlife biologist.

Though unwelcome today, nutria did not arrive on their own. Native to South America, they were brought to the United States for fur farming in the 19th century. The market never evolved, fur farms shut down, and some farmers released the animals into the wild. Because they do not hibernate or burrow, they perished in colder states, but have flourished in more hospitable climates.

Females can bear three litters a year with as many as 12 young, which quickly reach sexual maturity. Colonies flourish in salty water and fresh, and can make a home in a storm culvert or next to a parking lot.

Nutria are now believed to be in 17 or more states. They are endemic throughout the Gulf Coast, and there are pockets in Oregon and Washington. Louisiana's population, once estimated to be the largest at 20 million, has fallen after instituting a bounty program for pelts.

Nutria consume a quarter of their body weight daily, feasting on the tender roots of marsh grasses. Those marshes serve as habitat for young crabs and fish, and a natural filter for bodies of water like the Chesapeake.

Destroyed marshes known as eatouts can become enormous lakes. The loss of marsh exacerbates summertime dead zones of oxygen-depleted water in

the bay, killing crabs, oysters and fish, said Beth McGee, senior water quality scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a conservation group.

Virginia is drafting its own eradication plans, said Mr. Fies, the biologist, and does not expect much outcry. No one even wants nutria fur — a pelt at a recent fur auction fetched just \$1.

"They have precious few fans. A large, ugly-looking rodent — there's not many people out there that are championing their cause," he said.

In Maryland, nutria were released from a fur farm next to the Blackwater Reserve in the 1940s. By the 1990s, they were as many as 50,000 in the reserve. Richard Elzey, 58, recalled that he could walk across the marshes when growing up near Blackwater. Today, that same area — roughly 5,000 acres — is a vast lake clogged with silt.

"It's amazing what they can do," said Mr. Elzey, who works for the eradication program. "It's a shame, really."

A 2004 study commissioned by the state found that if left unchecked, nutria damage to the bay could eventually cost Maryland around \$37 million each year in lost economic activity.

Then the eradication project, which is financed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service but carried out by a division of the Department of Agriculture, went into high gear. In the first year, trappers killed thousands through the program, the only one in the country with a goal of eliminating all nutria.

The number has dropped off sharply each year. Today, the project is largely in a monitoring mode, having bagged only about a half-dozen in the last 18 months. But the new pockets have the team preparing for a fresh offensive.

After a morning slogging through mud and peering through eye-level marsh grass looking for droppings and nutria tracks, Mr. Kendrot said he would not mourn their disappearance.

“If we can successfully eradicate nutria from the Delmarva Peninsula, that’s the legacy this team will leave behind. For me, failure is not an option,” he said. “I do not want to be here five years from now, 10 years from now, chasing the last remaining “nute.”

ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Lake Christopher Architecture Committee has been especially busy over the last several months. Architectural review applications have been approved for many homeowners who have chosen to make changes to their homes or to accomplish needed repairs. Several new vinyl siding installations were approved bringing the total number of vinyl-sided homes up to 207 (57% of all homes).

It was also noted that several homeowners have undertaken changes to the appearance of their homes without the required approval of the Architecture Committee (AC). These included roof replacements, installation of white vinyl replacement windows, a fence installation, installation of a complete replacement lakefront bulkhead, and the exterior painting of several homes. The AC thanks the alert and concerned homeowners who reported these issues so violation notices could be issued quickly. In some cases the changes would have been approved if they were properly applied for as required and the violation notices would have been avoided.

The AC wishes to remind all homeowners that it is a requirement of both the Lake Christopher Declaration of Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions and the Architectural Guidelines to obtain written approval from the AC before making exterior modifications to homes and properties. Some examples are: painting, siding, replacing windows, roofs, sidewalks, and driveways, or construction of fences, bulkheads, decks, docks, sheds and home additions. Each alteration must be specifically approved prior to installation even though the intended alteration or improvement conforms to the adopted Architectural Guidelines or a similar or substantially identical alteration has been previously approved on another home.

The purpose of the Architectural Guidelines is to establish standards for maintaining the overall appearance of our community in order to preserve the value of Lake Christopher as a quality place to live.

A Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, & Restrictions (CC&R) has been recorded against all lots in Lake Christopher. Among the provisions of the CC&R is the establishment of an Architectural Committee that reviews any proposed alteration of homes in the community. One purpose of this review is to maintain architectural harmony in the community while at the same time not unduly restricting how individual homeowners may modify their property. Please refer to Section (1) of the Lake Christopher Architectural Guidelines for complete details on what defines property modifications and the procedure for making application for review by the Architecture Committee.

Please contact the Architectural Committee with any questions you may have regarding the approval process or to assist you in preparing requests.

Steve Rogovich, AC Chairman 467-9790 stever@infionline.net

ARE YOUR TREES READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

Trees are an asset to the community as they provide shade and can reduce energy costs, improve air quality and generally beautify the overall landscape. It has been estimated that trees can raise the value of a suburban lot by as much as 5-7% and people are often willing to pay more for a home in a well-treed area. Also, preserving and maintaining trees directly contributes to the overall attractiveness of a neighborhood.

Unfortunately it has been noticed that most trees in Lake Christopher have been completely neglected over the years. There are trees with multiple dead limbs, trees that are visibly deteriorated and some that are completely dead. Some judicious pruning and treatment can prevent the kind of tree damage here in Lake Christopher that we have seen on TV after just a strong wind storm.

While you are at it, take a look and make sure your trees and shrubs are not obstructing the sidewalks or preventing motorists from seeing around corners for traffic or pedestrians. If a hazard is noted by anyone in the community, please contact a board member or the property manager for action.



Paid advertising by:
 Sharon White, ABR, GRI, Realtor
 William E. Wood & Associate Realtors
 5308 Indian River Road
 Virginia Beach, VA 23464
 757-286-9375

- sharonsellshmz@cox.net

Boomers Hunt for Smaller Homes

When it comes to housing, Baby Boomers are different from many people. In two important ways...they have ample equity in their current homes and they are preparing to move out of their bigger homes.

There are 77 million people in the US between the ages of 47-85 who will soon be headed into the retirement market.

Most Boomers favor ranch homes or homes with a downstairs master bedroom that are about 1700-2600 square feet. Research shows that even though some prefer 55+ communities or condos, the majority favor Single Family Home neighborhoods that attract a broader mix of people and are centrally located close to shopping,

Updated bathrooms that offer higher height vanities and toilets as well as roomy step-in showers

restaurants, and hospitals .

Here are a few specific "wants" Boomers have on their list:

Open Spaces to host friends and family instead of "box style" rooms

Updated kitchens that open into these spaces

Plenty of storage, his and her closets, reinforced attic space

Backyard living space...not swimming pools or outside kitchens,...but large deck and/or patio areas preferably with a separate grilling space, and covered or screened in sitting area.

**NOBODY SELLS
LAKE CHRISTOPHER**

better!

Sharon White
your Neighbor, your Real Estate Professional

REALTOR®, ABR, GRI • RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST
 Listing • Buyer Brokerage • Relocation
 (757) 286.9375 | sharonsellshmz@cox.net
williamewood.com/sharonwhite

#1 since 1996 in listings & sales

For exceptional, professional real estate services,
 call Sharon. She's in the neighborhood!
(757) 286.9375

5308 Indian River Road • Virginia Beach, VA 23464
 Fax: (757) 424.7455 • Toll Free: (800) 955.5360

William E. Wood and Associates REALTORS

Angel Wings TREE SERVICE



Tree Removal
Tree Trimming

Stump Grinding
Honey Bee Removal

Paul Fleetwood
President

Office: (757) 588-0808
Cell: (757) 285-6128
paulf@angelwingtreeservice.com

Licensed and insured with Workmans Comp

www.AngelWingsTreeService.com

Garden Club News

Happy Summer everyone. We'll see you in the fall for our kick off meeting on Monday, September 10.

We're having an ice-cream social and would love to welcome any new members to the club. Dues are only \$10.00 per year. Contact Sandy Flaus at 635-4532 for time and location.

Garden Calendar

july

- **Set out tomato plants** if you want a fall crop.
- **Pick the yellow leaves** off geraniums.
- **During hot July weather**, be sure to mow your lawn to the appropriate height. This reduces water loss and helps lower soil temperatures. Leave clippings on the lawn to decompose.
- **Snapdragons** should be pinched back after blooming to promote a second flush of bloom.
- **When drought hits**, if you cannot water roses, don't do anything. Fertilizing, pruning, applying pesticides or even cutting flowers can harm plants that are water stressed.

august

- **Turn up the a/c**, get back on the sofa and order bulbs for fall planting. As you select your flowering bulbs to plant this fall, keep in mind that larger caliber bulbs give big, showy displays, but cost more.
- **Cut** dead bloom stalks off daylilies as soon as the last bud blooms.
- **Pull** weeds.
- **Water beds** once a week if there is no rain, and lay mulch if necessary.
- **Water your plants** several hours before applying pesticides, especially during dry weather. Drought-stressed plants have less water in their plant tissues, and the chemicals that enter the leaves consequently will be more concentrated and may burn the leaves.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Every year Lake Christopher has to re-register as a Neighborhood Watch Community. This requires 80% neighborhood participation, but we're always aiming for 100%. It's only a matter of getting acquainted with our neighbors, find out who's going to be out of town, keep an eye on each other's property and report any unusual or suspicious activity on the street. Make sure your information (address and phone #) is up to date with Rich Lindgren, Neighborhood Watch Chair (495-6133). Sometimes nosy neighbors can be a real asset.

495-6446

5% Discount for Lake Christopher Homeowners

DAVE'S AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING

HONEST, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

DAVE DETWILER, OWNER

PO BOX 64517 VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23467

Specializing in converting Lake Christopher

home heating systems to gas heat.

A Lake Christopher Homeowner

"Your Neighborhood Printer"

DODSON LITHO PRINTERS

1658 KEMPSVILLE ROAD • VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464

"Specializing in Printing & Promotional Items"

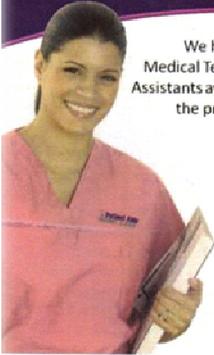
COLOR COPY SPECIAL

35¢ Ea. 8.5 x 11 • 75¢ Ea. 11 x 17 (Single Sided)

Office 757.479.4814 • Fax 757.479.4813

Email: printforu@cox.net • Web: www.dodsonprinting.com

Affordable, Flexible, Compassionate 24/7 Care



We have a team of Nurses, CNAs, Medical Technicians, LPNs and Personal Care Assistants available to care for your loved one in the privacy of your home or facility.

Our caregivers can provide affordable, trustworthy care and support

- 24/7—365 days a year
- Last minute requests—no problem
- Full-time, occasional or respite care



We're available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anytime and any place you need assistance, we're just a phone call away. Even last-minute re-requests for in-home care, facility staffing, transportation assistance, hospital sitting or patient discharge cases are no problem.

Our experienced senior care professionals provide unparalleled service in the field of Home Care Assistance. We have:

- ✓ Registered Nurses
- ✓ Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's)
- ✓ Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's)
- ✓ Medication Techs
- ✓ Medical Technicians
- ✓ Personal Care Assistants
- ✓ Home-makers
- ✓ Companion Care



Office: (757) 515-2708

Fax: (757) 368-0699

E-mail: patientaide@aol.com

www.patientaidehomecare.com

Patient Aide Home Care Inc. 24/7

(757)515-2708