

# the Legacy



A journal of the lake Christopher homes association

April-May 2011

## Change in Dues Payment Schedule

The Board of Directors, realizes that a lump sum payment of assessments in January may be burdensome to some homeowners. Therefore, the Board would like to institute a quarterly payment plan. How would this work? Well, those who wish to pay their assessment as usual, in January, may continue to do so. Those who opt for the payment plan would pay 25% of their assessment in January, March, July and October. As an incentive, those who pay in full in January will receive a discount for doing so. This, however, requires a vote of 75% of the homeowners to change the existing covenants. You will be notified by mail as to the manner of the collection of the votes for this amendment. Meanwhile you can direct your comments to any of the board members or to the property manager.

## NEW SIGNS

The new Lake Christopher entrance signs are due to be installed this month. Several months' research has gone into choosing the materials and design of the signs and a "straw poll" was taken at the annual meeting in February as to which design was preferred. The Lake Christopher Garden Club will be donating two new Tuscarora Crepe Myrtles to accent the signs at the Sand Pebbles entrance. We think you will all be pleased with the results.

## SCOOP THE POOP

Stepped in dog poop walking around the lake lately? Had to clean some off your front lawn or sidewalk? You're not alone. Some people are still not cleaning up their dog's poop while walking them around Lake Christopher.

Virginia Beach Ordinances, Section 5-16 – Allowing dogs to urinate or defecate on public or private property states: It

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Gary Butterbaugh  
Donna Christensen  
Greg Huhn  
Rich Lindgren  
Nathan Lutz  
Elias Logothetis  
Sally Parsons  
Dick Schwarz  
Tim Short  
Sharon White  
Steve Rogovich  
Jenny Pfeiffer

### 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

### ATTEND THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. Have a gripe? Make a suggestion? Give a "warm fuzzy"?

### **HOMEOWNERS' FORUM**

is held at the beginning of each meeting.

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

shall be unlawful for any owner or person in control of a dog to (1) knowingly or willfully allow his/her dog to urinate or defecate on the private property of other persons without their consent or that of the authorized agent of the one having control of the premises. (2) Knowingly or willfully allow his/her dog to urinate or defecate on public property, except that defecation by a dog on public property shall not constitute a violation of this section if the owner of the dog immediately removes the material defected and disposes of it in a safe and sanitary manner.

Why is failure to pick up after your pet against the law here in Virginia Beach? Because dog excrement that is left can eventually decompose and be washed into waterways, including our lake through the storm drains. This in turn causes pollution and algae growth in the lake during the summer, which can pose health risks to people swimming and kills fish.

We all know that it is difficult to make your dog defecate in a specified location, so they often do it on private and public property. If the owner picks up the poop immediately, the majority of residents don't have a problem with this. That means that you must carry bags or a container to put the poop in to dispose of it properly. It also means that if you send your kids out to walk the dog, they also must be equipped to pick up the poop and dispose of it at home. Also, if you run with your dog and it poops on the run, you are still responsible for picking it up and disposing of it, not just leaving a trail down the street or sidewalk.

Think about your responsibilities the next time you walk your dog and if you see someone that is remiss in doing this, let them know that it is the law to "Scoop the Poop".

## **Scoop the Poop Campaign**

Sponsored by the Lake Christopher Garden Club

As you ride around our neighborhood on Thursday nights and Fridays, you probably Are noticing "Scoop the Poop" stickers on many trash cans. This campaign is designed to remind dog walkers to pick up their animal feces in a bag and carry it home to be properly disposed of in their trash cans. Dog feces is NOT like cow manure - it has no gardening benefits whatsoever and causes horrible pollution. It runs off into our waterways (namely our own Lake Christopher) via storm drains and finds its way from bodies of water like our lake and Stumpy Lake into streams flowing into the rivers all the way to the Chesapeake Bay. Imagine how just one small task of Scooping the Poop can benefit our environment - and our beautiful neighborhood and lake.

Our desire is to get these stickers out to all Lake Christopher Residents. If you have not received one and would like to join this campaign, give me a call and I will gladly deliver one to your home.

Sharon White- 286-9375

## **Curbside Sweeping**

While you are out cleaning up after the dog, take a look at the curb gutter in front of your house. A lot of leaves and other debris have accumulated over the winter. Please help prevent this from flowing into our lake through the storm drains. A few minutes sweeping will do a world of good. And furthermore, everyone should be aware that there is no dumping of anything allowed in the storm drains. This means no used motor oil, paint, garbage, trash or lawn clippings.

Meanwhile, we are in contact with the City to see if the street sweeping machines could come around once in a while. The City has been concentrating more on the areas that directly impact the bay but if we cry hard enough, maybe we can get the service here once in a while. Until then it's up to us.

## Disclosure packets

Thinking of selling your home? One of the important documents Virginia law requires you obtain is the Lake Christopher Homes Association Resale Disclosure Documents or Packet for your property.

These Disclosure Documents contain pertinent information regarding any design or maintenance violations that may have been observed during an Association Staff exterior inspection of your property and will include Lake Christopher Homes Association Assessment information for new buyers as well as other homeowner resource materials.

The Virginia law requires that only the owner or his authorized agent may purchase and receive the Resale Disclosure Documents.

By law, Lake Christopher Homes Association has 14 days; from the day payment is received, to complete the Resale Disclosure Documents for your property. You will be contacted by Select Group staff when the Documents are completed.

## Lights Out

The Board of Directors and Management are aware that the park lights have been out for some time now and working to correct the condition. Dominion Power is responsible for repair of the lights and so far it has been a low priority with them. We have been assured, however, that a crew will be out to repair them soon. To report street light outage, check the pole for the number and call 385-4131.

## PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors is asking residents who are parents of small children or any interested resident to form a committee to research and advise the Board concerning improvements to the playground areas at the parks.

According to our Reserve Study\*, the playground equipment will reach its maximum age of use in 2013. Since this is a very large project directly affecting children, the board would like help in planning.

The committee would be tasked to research types of equipment, colors, placement, and come up with firm estimates of the cost of the project, including installation and surfacing. Property Manager, Gayle Pinero, has access to catalogues and regulations concerning this if the committee needs them.

This is a great opportunity to get in on the workings of the community even though there is not a lot of time to devote.

Interested? Call Greg Hugn at 963-7356.

**495-6446**

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A Lake Christopher Homeowner

## Garden Club News

All Lake Christopher residents are invited to attend Garden Club meetings. For locations of meetings, contact Sue Edwards, President, at 495-3551 or [smewalks@aol.com](mailto:smewalks@aol.com)

### HONEYBEES AND YOU.....

Honeybees are important to us all...for their ability to pollinate fruits and vegetables and to provide honey. We often see honeybees in our gardens, collecting pollen and nectar to take back to their hives. Did you know a honeybee visits 2 million flowers just to make a teaspoon of honey? Occasionally you may see a large mass of honeybees in your yard, perhaps on a branch or fence. This is called a swarm and represents the old queen and thousands of worker bees looking for a new home. This is a natural way honeybees reproduce to ensure their continued survival. Do not approach this swarm. PLEASE do not spray insecticide and kill this vital natural resource. The safe and most responsible thing to do if you see a swarm of honeybees is call the Tidewater Beekeepers Association. For FREE, they will send someone to your home to collect these bees and place them in a hive where the bees will continue to collect pollen, pollinate our fruits and vegetables and make honey.

Contact the Tidewater Beekeepers Association at 757 641-5933 or [tidewaterbeekeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:tidewaterbeekeeper@yahoo.com).  
*Information provided by Frank Walker, Tidewater Beekeepers Association president at the February 7 meeting of the Lake Christopher Garden Club.*

### Historic Garden Week April 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>

Presented by the Garden Club of Virginia, ticket holders to the **April 20 tour in Virginia Beach** will have an opportunity to view one of the city's finest neighborhoods from both land and water. A luxury yacht cruise will be offered throughout the day, departing from the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club Marina and featuring delightful vistas of beautiful homes and gardens, waterfowl and the occasional dolphin on Linkhorn Bay. The Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, and local experts will be on hand to discuss area birds and waterfowl. The tour features sophisticated 20th century houses in the Birdneck Point neighborhood, as well as six historic homes, some dating to the earliest settlement in the area more than three hundred years ago.

Organizers of the **Norfolk tour on April 21** offer an interesting selection of activities, in addition to tours of historic homes and gardens in the Hague:

--Norfolk Master Gardeners and the Plant Doctor will be available to help with plant problems and discuss gardening questions at the Chrysler Museum. Various Norfolk neighborhood "Green" projects, Echo-Gardening and Rain Gardens will also be showcased.

--The Chrysler Museum will offer a special "Flowers in Art" tour of its collection.

--Also at the Chrysler, visiting horticulture experts from Norfolk, England, sister city, will give a panel presentation on English Gardens at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

--Orchid expert John B. Zukowsky will answer questions and display for sale a wide selection of exotic indoor orchids as well as hardy outdoor orchids suitable for Tidewater gardens.

The Garden Club of Virginia is an active association of forty-seven garden clubs, whose members collectively form a group of more than 3,300 civic leaders from around the Commonwealth.

Tickets may be purchased at any of the homes on the tour, on the day of the tour. Locations are listed in the Historic Garden Week brochure available at the Kempsville Library and will be published in the newspaper.


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**Spring Plant Sale by the  
 Virginia Beach Master  
 Gardeners**  
**Saturday, May 7**  
**9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
**Virginia Beach Farmers Market,  
 Dam Neck and Princess Anne  
 Roads**

**Shop the Virginia Beach Master  
 Gardeners Plant Sale.**  
**Hundreds of plants are grown  
 by Master Gardeners and sold  
 at bargain prices. Be sure to  
 come early for the best  
 selection.**

## Spring Garden Tips

### April

- Check your lawn mower and get blades sharpened to avoid the spring rush.
- Check for insects and disease, and spray affected plants with horticultural oil when it's above 45 degrees.
- Rake bare spots in the lawn and then apply grass seed.
- Do not mow the lawn until it has grown at least 2 inches. The roots are being renewed in the spring, and grass needs vigorous top growth initially.
- Discourage nibbling in your garden this year by using plants that most critters don't find tasty; like ageratum, dusty miller, French marigold, periwinkle, snapdragon, sweet alyssum, wax begonia and zinnia.

### May

- Cut the dead flower stems from spring flowering bulbs, but leave the foliage.
- If your hostas have holes, check for slugs. If you find them, sprinkle sand or wood ashes around the plants.
- Dig and divide dusty miller in the spring and replant the more vigorous, outside portions of the clump.
- Plant tomatoes when the soil is about 65-70 degrees.
- If your soil test says you need fertilizer, side dress perennials with a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, being careful to avoid the center or crown of the plant.
- Transplants become less stressed when they are set out on a calm and cloudy day. Strong sun and wind are hard on transplants, so set out plants in the late afternoon when the wind comes down and the plants have overnight to acclimate

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## REAL ESTATE NEWS

by: Sharon White, ABR, GRI, Realtor  
 William E. Wood & Associates

*your Neighbor, your Real Estate Professional*

*Tips for Packing Like a Pro*  
*Real Estate Today Magazine*

1. Plan ahead by organizing. Make a master "to do" list.
2. Sort and get rid of things you no longer want.
3. Pack similar items together (toys with toys, kitchen items with kitchen items) for easier unpacking.
4. Decide on anything you may want to move yourself.
5. Remember, movers won't take plants so plan on moving them yourself or give them away.
6. Use the right box for the right item – loose items break.
7. Limit weight to 50 pounds per box for easier lifting
8. Keep all your moving documents together in a travel file.
9. Print out a map and specific directions to give to the Movers. Don't let them rely on GPS. Give them your mobile number and you get theirs.
10. Make arrangements for small children and pets to spare them from the moving day madness.

For more information: 757-286-9375 sharon@sellshmsz.com  
 Paid Advertising by Sharon White

## PLACE AN AD IN THE LEGACY

Want ads, For Sales, Lost and Finds, 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.

Other sizes are available.

Call Donna Christensen, 495-3996 for more information. Deadline for the June issue is May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **-A special congratulations...**

To Richard Montgomery, a Lake Christopher resident for many years, on the publication of his novel, The Last Witness. Richard is retired Navy and an active member of the community. His wife Cheryl is a long time Garden Club member and avid gardener. Check out the book; looks like a great summer read.



“The Last Witness” is listed on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Books-a-Million and PublishAmerica.com.

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## **Attention Residents!**

The 2011-12 Directory will be compiled and distributed this summer. If you are new to the neighborhood and your name and number is not in the current directory, please send us your information using the following form. Every effort is made to keep the information up to date and confidential.

*The Legacy* is available on the Lake Christopher Website <http://lakechristopherhomes.com>

If, however you would like to receive the Legacy by email, please fill out this form and drop it off to: Donna Christensen, 1441 Lake Christopher Drive or email: [cldochris@earthlink.net](mailto:cldochris@earthlink.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## LAKE CHRISTOPHER COMMUNITY WIDE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

Place leftovers at curb after the sale for pick up by Village Home.  
Village home is a church based organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of addicted persons

