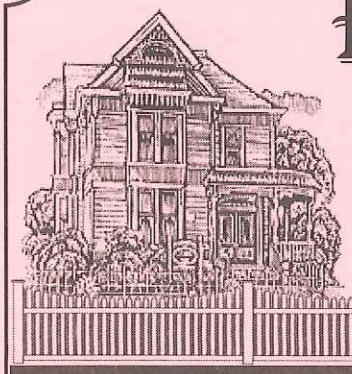
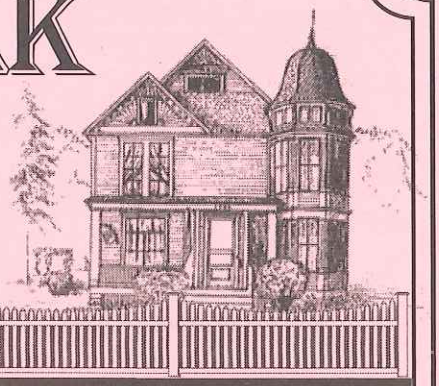
PORCH TALK





FEBRUARY 2007

Port Norfolk Civic League, P. O. Box 7114, Portsmouth VA 23707

Board Contacts

President:
~~John Lifsey~~
~~399-2383~~
Mark DiVenuti
393-1961

Vice-President:
~~Jon Berry~~
~~397-7221~~
Phil DeSiano
399-7526

Treasurer:
Carolyn Wyatt
399-3754

Recording/Corresponding Secretary:
Mark DiVenuti
~~393-1961~~

CAR/Stabilization:
~~Jon Berry~~
~~397-7221~~ open

Environmental:
Madalyn Grimes
397-0090

Homes Tours:
~~Judy Higgins~~
~~399-4122~~
Yvonne DiSonio
399-7526

Recreation:
~~Position Open~~
Liz Schuler
397-2858

Fountain Park:
~~Chuck Beeler~~
~~397-1154~~ Both

Reflection Walk:
Debbie Foytik
397-7164

Welcoming/Membership:
~~Patsy Woodland~~
~~397-4884~~
open

Publicity/Porch Talk:
~~Vicky Murza~~
~~647-3899~~
Donell

Webmaster:
~~Kim Lewandowski~~
~~399-7081~~
Rich Bonnell

Ways and Means:
~~Judy Higgins~~
~~399-4122~~
Phil DeSiano

FEBRUARY LEAGUE NEWS

Civic League Meeting

The next Civic League meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday
February 1, 2007
7:00 pm

Monthly meetings are held in the Port Norfolk Recreation Center at 432 Broad Street.

Fundraising Raffle
50/50 Split
$1.00 per ticket

Join us at the February Civic League meeting.

- to unite for cooperation and interchange of ideas
- to further the best interests of our community towards beautification, recreation, safety and security of residents
- discuss formation of a neighborhood safety committee

Time to Re-New Membership

It's time to renew your membership to the Port Norfolk Civic League. League dues are only $5.00 per person for the year.

Benefits of Joining:

- Your membership in the league empowers Port Norfolk to be a strong voice within the city regarding issues and events that impact our neighborhood.
- Guarantees your vote on issues that are brought before the neighborhood.
- Meet and greet your neighbors at the monthly meetings .
- Receive discounts on tickets purchased for various Port Norfolk events.

The membership dues assist with funding of League events and the printing of Porch Talk.

If you are an existing member, it's time to renew. I f you have not joined before, please consider joining now. Just complete the form at the top of p age two to submit your membership.

For Board member email addresses, visit our website at www.portnorfolk.org

2007 Port Norfolk Civic League Membership Form

Name: _____ Birthday Month(s): _____

Address: _____ Park Donation: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Mail or take this form with $5.00 for each membership to Patsy Woodland at 2801 Bayview Blvd.

Park donations should be mailed to Port Norfolk Civic League, P.O. Box 7114, Portsmouth VA 23707.

PORCH CHATTER

Birthdays

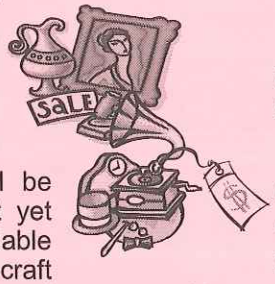
Wishing everyone who celebrates a birthday in January a terrific day. . . David Chance, Robert Gelinas, Linwood Grimes, Ron Herman, Grace Hood, Shelly Lamm, David Ponton, JoAnne Ramsey, Mike Revell, Charlie Schmidt, Peggy Silverthorne, Jake Spinnler, Peggy Williams, and Patsy Woodland.

Birthdays are obtained from the League membership list. If you have someone who's special day you'd like to recognize, email publicity@portnorfolk.com.

Yard of the Month!

209 Mount Vernon
Your yard looks fantastic!

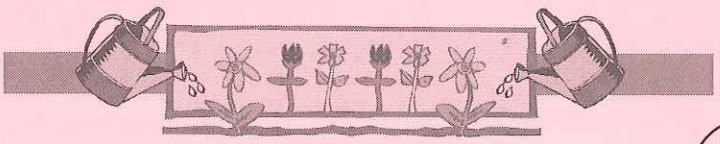
Looking Toward Spring



If you are cleaning out your closets and re-evaluating the usefulness of some household items—DON'T THROUGH THEM AWAY. Grab a box and mark it flea market. Our annual Port Norfolk Flea Market will be held in May. The date is not yet confirmed. Spaces will be available for $20.00. Also, if you do craft projects that you may want to sell—start working now.

Even though it looks as if winter has finally arrived, we are planning a garden tour for this coming June. So for all of you who have a passion for your yards and pour over the newest seed catalogues while your garden sleeps, this could be your thing.

If you are interest in working on the Garden Tour committee or showing off your plot of paradise, contact Judy at 399-4122. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2007 and our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007.



Advertise in Porch Talk

Business Card ..... $35.
¼ Page ..... $70.
½ Page ..... $140.

publicity@portnorfolk.org

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

Neat Officer:
Chris Gilmore—235.5655

Environmental/Housing Inspector:
Beth Mitchell—393.8522 x4270 or 235.5470

UP FROM THE SOIL

by Jim Hoffmaster
hoffkov@cox.net

As I write this, a major cold front is moving in and they are calling for a possibility of snow flurries tomorrow. This, after three consecutive days in the upper 60's and low 70's which, by the way, I soooo have gotten used to. I guess we all knew it could not last and now it's time for a reality check.. I think winter is finally going to stick around for a while this time.

In my work, many folks have asked about the plants that have sprouted or even bloomed and what they can do to save the buds or foliage. Honestly, not much. If you have blooms now, then you probably will not have blooms later. As for the leaf buds on trees and shrubs, they will just freeze off and new ones will form later. In other words, it's all part of the natural process that is Mother Nature and everything will bounce back!

What we can do during the coldest (normally) month of the year is prepare. Check your tools for rust or dull blades and fix accordingly. If you had a lot of weeds sprout in the warmth, don the gloves and coat and get those undesirables out as soon as possible. Check your outdoor pots for cracks and seal them now and then store in a dry place. Trim your trees and shrubs as needed now while they are dormant but I would put off transplanting until March since the ground freezes in Feb.

Need some green? About mid February is a good time to start seeds indoors. Garden centers now have plenty of cell packs, seed pods, starter soil, seeds and some even have pop-up "cold frames" you can set outside once the seedlings have been potted up. Always start your seeds in a warm place indoors and provide as much sunlight as possible once you start seeing the new growth. And keep that soil mix moist at all times. Seedlings must never dry out!

Not into sowing seeds? Go shopping! This is the time of year most stores have a good selection of tropical plants to help break the winter doldrums. The ultimate remedy for the need for green is attending the Virginia Home and Garden Show at the Va. Bch Convention Center Feb. 16th – 18th. The flower show and the Home show have been smartly combined this year, so there is something for everyone. And do not miss the Maymont Flower and Garden Show at the Richmond Convention Center Feb. 22nd – 25th. It's always well worth the drive!

So hang in there. Your established plants will make through this crazy winter and so will you!

Jim Hoffmaster has been a resident of Port Norfolk for 11 years. His monthly gardening column is published in a few newsletters in the city of Norfolk. Jim has offered to share his articles with his Port Norfolk neighbors and would be happy to answer any questions anyone might have.

His experience in horticulture comes mostly from his work. He managed an upstart garden center in Norfolk for 3 years, participated in a monthly call-in radio show on gardening for 3 years, maintained tropical greenhouses for a local plant rental business for 2 years and currently manages the garden department at a large department store in Norfolk.

The History of Valentine's Day

Every February we celebrate Valentines Day by giving flowers, candy and cards to those we love. We do this in honor of Saint Valentine. You may be wondering, "Who is St. Valentine"?

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today.

Perhaps we'll never know the true identity and story behind the man named St. Valentine, but this much is for sure...February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating clear back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentines ranks second only to Christmas in number of greeting cards sent.

Another valentine gentleman you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Roman mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, god of love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes around wounding both gods and humans with his arrows, causing them to fall in love.

CAR DEADLINES

March:

- **App Due: 02/27/07**
- Meeting: 03/06/07

April:

- **App Due: 03/27/07**
- Meeting: 04/03/07

As a reminder, Port Norfolk is an historic district and CAR, which is a city-appointed committee, works with homeowners to offer guidance and resources to assist with and approve exterior home renovations and improvements while retaining the architectural integrity of our neighborhood.

PORCH TALK

Port Norfolk Civic League
P.O. Box 7114
Portsmouth VA 23707
www.publicity@portnorfolk.org

Important Dates

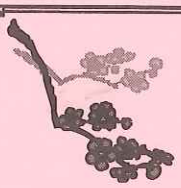
FEBRUARY

Civic League Meeting 1
Valentines Day 14
President's Day 19

Birthstone: Amethyst
Flower: Violet

President's Day

Until 1971, both February 12 and February 22 were observed as federal public holidays to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and George Washington (February 22). In 1971 President Richard Nixon proclaimed one single federal public holiday, the Presidents' Day, to be observed on the 3rd Monday of February, honoring all past presidents of the United States of America.



Teri Osborne, CMT

Re-opening February 8th
Back upstairs next to The Lofty Bean

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Thank you for supporting the Port Norfolk Civic League!

Tree Care Facts

Winter it the best time for pruning of your trees. Conducting deadwood and reduction pruning during the dormant season reduces stress on the tree and helps to prevent the introduction of disease through the pruning wound.

When hiring a tree care company, you should ensure proof of workman's compensation insurance as well as liability insurance. If a company doesn't hold these policies and something happens during work, the homeowner is liable.

Beware of companies attempting to reduce job cost by putting debris at the street for pick up by the city. This is illegal and will end up costing the homeowner additional money for disposal if you are caught.

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your complete tree care professional

Tree Pruning, Removal, Disposal, Firewood
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Arborcare LLC is proudly based in Port Norfolk.
Owners Sydni and Steve Connally have lived in the 200 block of Florida Avenue for 3 years.