

Winter 2007

# Church Point Post

Homeowners Association Quarterly Newsletter



## November Car Break-Ins Prompt Stepped Up Security

While Church Point remains a relatively low-crime neighborhood, a series of recent “smash and grab” car break-ins have raised concerns about security. Similar incidents have occurred throughout the area, including in Thoroughgood. The Neighborhood Watch and HOA Board have been working closely with police to investigate these incidents and step up patrols in Church Point. In addition, the Board funded extra patrols by off-duty VB police during the holidays in an effort to provide more police visibility and make Church Point residences harder targets, and the Board will be considering further measures if needed.

There are some key things residents can do to help fight this type of crime. Don't leave anything that looks like it might be valuable visible in your car. If possible, park the car in the garage overnight. If not, leave the car in a well-lit area and set the alarm if you have one. For more on this issue, see the Neighborhood Watch column on p. 2.

## Board Acts on First Court Photenia

In a December letter to all residents, Board of Directors President Neal Curtin outlined the Board's plan for moving forward on the issue of dying photenia along First Court Road.

The letter makes clear that the photenia and fences along First Court are on private residents' property and are therefore the individual resident's responsibility. Under Church Point's covenants, any changes to that landscaping are subject to Board of Directors approval. An amendment that would have changed this provision to have the HOA take over that landscaping was defeated at the October annual meeting.

Residents along First Court Road recently submitted over 40 letters requesting the Board to change this decision or hold a revote, asserting that many residents were not aware of the impact of the proposed amendment. Some residents also spoke at the Board's January meeting. The Board is considering the residents' request. Curtin's Dec. 14 letter and the residents' Jan. 9 response are posted on the Church Point web site under the “Report” tab.

## President's Corner

By Neal Curtin, HOA President

I hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. We are in the middle of the gloomy winter weather now, and I hope the Newsletter doesn't add to the gloom. With articles on break-ins, dying photenia, and unleashed dogs, it may seem like there's only bad news. But there is actually plenty of good news to be grateful for. Case in point – the Neighborhood Watch, under LaTanya Cole's leadership, has really stepped up and done a great job in tackling the automobile break-in issue. She and her block captains have worked hard to get the word out to everyone and to coordinate closely with police. Be sure to read this issue's Neighborhood Watch column for the latest from LaTanya. Another case – the Garden Club did a great job of decorating the entrances for the holidays, sponsored another successful Santa at the Gazebo attended by lots of Church Point kids and parents, and is being featured in the Virginia Beach city newsletter for the red, white, and blue pansies planted this winter as part of the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration coming up this year.

I would like to be able to feature even more good news in future Newsletters, by starting a feature on accomplishments by students – of all ages—from Church Point families. To do that, I need to hear from you if your own children, or a neighbor's, win an award, graduate with honors, achieve a milestone, set a record – whatever you think would be of interest to the Church Point community. Just email me with a note.

## Neighborhood Watch – by LaTanya Cole

For a few weeks in the fall of 2006, our neighborhood was targeted by unwanted visitors who vandalized our cars and made us feel unsafe. Our Neighborhood Watch Team got the word out to residents and coordinated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct of the VB Police Department (VBPD) to investigate these crimes and obtained increased police presence in Church Point.

In addition, the HOA Board approved money for increased security, and block captain (and retired police officer) Bob Whipkey worked diligently with the VBPD to coordinate the staffing of off-duty police officers. The officers were in uniform and drove police vehicles. In all, we received 30+ hours of off-duty security during the holiday season, which is traditionally a high-crime period.

Bob kept logs of the reports that he received from the officers and reported his findings to the Board and myself. Bob's summary was very interesting; these are some of the police findings that were reported: a non-resident 17 year-old with bleeding hands (said he was hitting mailboxes – none were found damaged), a white van with multiple occupants (owner of van lives in Pembroke area - plate is on file), a domestic disturbance call, a car door left wide open on Meeting House Lane, numerous parking violations, and 4 reckless driving tickets (all were CP residents or guests, all were driving over 40 mph, AND all had a bad attitude when stopped by the police). See the article on p. 5 by Neal Curtin, HOA President, for his thoughts on this report.

The best result of our having had the increased security – I have not received one crime report since mid-December! (Let's all knock on wood).

Wishing for good luck, though, is not enough. Our next challenge as a neighborhood is to continue to practice the good habits that we've developed:

- Park your car in the garage if possible
- Do not leave valuables in your car (even if under seat or in trunk)
- Do not leave your car running and step away, even for "2 seconds"
- Report non-residents who are soliciting without a permit and/or acting suspiciously to the police (call 385-2703 for non-emerg. or 9-1-1 for emerg.)
- Before retiring for evening... check for a closed garage door, all doors are locked, windows are secured, and alarms are set
- Turn on your outside lights daily at dusk or set to timer

We know now that we are not immune to crime, but we can also do something about it. Now would be a great time for more of you to get involved in the Neighborhood Watch program. I can always use more block captains and other volunteers. Contact me at [elcee.cole@verizon.net](mailto:elcee.cole@verizon.net) or 757/460-3157.

Thank you to VBPD (especially LT. Adams and MPO Leta Krieger), The Select Group, the selfless Block Captains (especially Bob Whipkey), and of course the Block Watchers – without you, there would be no Neighborhood Watch.

## Changes to Church Point Directory – Welcome, Newcomers!

PAYNE, Thomas and Barbara	1728 Jordans Parish Place	627-0410
HAFER, Alexander and Jessica	4141 Church Point Road	
MOHAMMADI, L. Genovese and Khashayar	1701 Hosskine Mews	
WILLIAMS, Virgil Jr.	3944 Meeting House Road	
BRADECICH, Jason	1705 Pilgrims Mews	

# Church Point Garden Club

By Joan Curtin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Garden Club



## Scenes from “Santa At the Gazebo ‘06”



**Thank you** to all the residents who purchased **poinsettias**, the Garden Club’s fundraiser this year. Again we were very pleased with the quality of the plants we received from the nursery and expect to conduct another sale next fall.

The Garden Club members would also like to thank all the children and their families who helped make our annual presentation of **Santa Claus at the Gazebo** a big success. Santa and Mrs. Claus listened carefully to each child’s Christmas wish list and accepted the written lists they brought for Santa and his elves. Garden Club members provided cookies, hot apple cider and candy canes. As always, Santa and Mrs. Claus happily posed for pictures with all their visitors. The Garden Club is very appreciative of the donations made to the Club that afternoon. The proceeds from the poinsettia sale and the donations received at Santa’s visit go toward beautification projects in our neighborhood.

In the fall we replaced the red, white and blue petunias at the entrances with red, white and blue pansies. There will be an article on Church Point’s **America’s Anniversary Garden** in the spring issue of the *Virginia Beach Magazine*.

In addition to hosting Santa in December, Club members created holiday floral arrangements for the Francis Land House – the hurricane lamps in the parlor. We also joined with fellow members of the Council of Garden Clubs to make Williamsburg-style wreaths that were placed on the buildings at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center.

Our spring activities will include a workshop to make floral arrangements for the **Empty Bowls** dinner at *Virginia Wesleyan*, a benefit for the Food Bank of Eastern Virginia, and decorating the **Francis Land House** for Historic Garden Week on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

It’s not too late to join us for the remainder of our activities this year which include: a field trip to **McDonald Garden Center** for a discussion on orchids and their care, a presentation from the owner of **Wild Birds Unlimited**, a floral workshop with our own Laura Jacobson, and our end of year luncheon at **The Lucky Star** in May. Please visit the Church Point website for more information or call me at 460-6493 or our Club President, Suzie Duckworth at 363-1050.

## Virginia Beach Law Requires Dogs To Be Leashed

Some recent incidents of dogs attacking other dogs -- and even people -- in the neighborhood serve as a reminder that dogs should be walked on leashes. This is Virginia Beach law, not just a Church Point requirement. Even if your dog is normally very docile, you never know when something could set it off or some other animal could attack it.

The Virginia Beach Animal Control Department web site has some good information on licensing requirements, barking, animal bites, etc. It also contains a page of tips for pet owners. If you own a pet, the site is definitely worth visiting. Go to [vb.gov.com](http://vb.gov.com), select the Police Department, and then look for Animal Control listed on the Police page.

Oh, and by the way, when you take your dog out, don’t forget that pooper scooper or plastic bag!

## Church Point News Briefs

- ❖ **Valley Crest to Take Over Maintenance of Common Areas** -- After many years, Coastal Landscaping will no longer handle maintenance of common areas in Church Point. The Board of Directors decided to make a change for 2007 in an effort to improve service. Valley Crest will be the new contractor; it is a national company specializing in maintenance for communities like Church Point and has handled landscaping in Bishops Court for several years.
- ❖ **Peggy Carnes Leaves HOA Board of Directors** -- Peggy Carnes has resigned from the Church Point HOA Board of Directors for family reasons. Her position of Secretary of the Board has been taken over by Peggy Dickens.
- ❖ **Gazebo Will Undergo Maintenance** - A leaky roof and rotting wood will require some maintenance for the gazebo this year. We are getting estimates now and hope to have the work done in the spring. It will be funded from a combination of regular maintenance accounts and Replacement Reserves. The pump house in the Commons Park also requires re-roofing.
- ❖ **New Architectural Standards Coordinator** - Robert Whipkey has volunteered to function as coordinator for review and approval of applications for exterior changes to residences in Church Point. Bob will report to the Board with a recommendation on each application. The Church Point Online web site has a new application form that can be downloaded and explains the procedures to be followed if you are planning any alterations or additions to your home or property.



### Your Church Point Babysitting Resource

Many residents have asked about the availability of babysitters here in Church Point, so we have started this feature in the *Church Point Post* as a service. Please help us add to the list by letting us know of any babysitters in your household (email [npchurchpoint@cox.net](mailto:npchurchpoint@cox.net)). Here is the current list:

**Christina Baddar** – Age 12 (Red Cross Babysitters course; certified in child and infant CPR) – 226-9950

**Alexa Go** – Age 15 (experienced; references available) – 460-2976

**Jane Go** – Age 13 (experienced) – 460-2976

**Emma Hamilton** – Age 12 (Red Cross Babysitters course) -- 363-2829

**Kate Hamilton** – Age 13 -- 363-2829

**Jennifer Morben** – Age 13 (experienced; Red Cross Babysitters course) – 464-0232

**Brian Murphy** – Age 13 – 460-5638

## Current Plans to Develop Indigo Dunes Could Impact Church Point

Developers have proposed building over 1,000 units of housing on the property east of Bayville Golf Club in the Ocean Park area. The development, called Indigo Dunes, would have high-rise condos along the Lynnhaven River and low- and mid-rise apartments, and some single-family homes, in the rest of the area starting near Shore Drive. Many civic organizations along the Shore Drive corridor have opposed this development because of its size, density, traffic impact, and effect on sensitive environmental areas along the Lynnhaven. The Board recently voted to send a letter to the city and other approving agencies opposing the development. Church Point residents should be aware of this proposed development and make your feelings known to the City. The developer's plans are at [www.indigodunesinfo.com/](http://www.indigodunesinfo.com/). The web site for a group opposing the development is here: <http://sdcc.info/noindigodunes>. This site includes an on-line petition that you can sign to oppose the plan.



**SAVE YOUR ROOF!!!**  
**ROOF STAINS ARE BLACK**  
**FUNGUS EATING**  
**INTO YOUR ROOF!!!**  
**ROOFWASHING IS THE CURE!!!**  
**WWW.ROOFWASHER.COM 757-428-7001**  
**OWNER WORKS ON ALL JOBS! FREE ESTIMATES**  
**10% OFF WITH HOUSEWASH**

Advertisement

**Old Donation Episcopal Day School**  
4449 N. Witchduck Rd. Va. Beach, Va. 23455  
**Preschool and Kindergarten**

Register Now for  
Fall 2007-08

 

**NEW after school hours until 2:30pm**  
499-2283 [odeds@olddonation.org](mailto:odeds@olddonation.org)

## Some Comments on Security Report

By Neal Curtin, HOA President

The Neighborhood Watch column in this newsletter (p. 2) summarized the security concerns we have had lately and reported on the results of increased police patrols in the neighborhood. Some things struck me about the report that I wanted to share with residents:

1. The police were not here specifically to look for speeders, but some offenses were too obvious for them to ignore. Speeding is still a problem in Church Point. With a 25 mph speed limit, we should not have cars going 40 mph or more (I understand one car was clocked at 47 mph). That's reckless driving and dangerous to all of us, whether it's late at night or middle of the day. Please slow down.
2. The VB police got a bad impression of Church Point during this episode. They came away seeing us as careless, arrogant, and disrespectful of police authority. I don't think that's the image we want for our community, and it certainly doesn't help when we are asking them for more patrols and resources. The police have a job to do – one that we should welcome. But we also have to help ourselves by taking more precautions and cooperating with police officers.

**Church Point Homeowners Association**  
**Newsletter Committee**  
**P. O. Box 55151**  
**Virginia Beach, VA 23455**

## **Church Point Community Bulletin Board**

- Many of the articles in this issue were suggested by Church Point residents. If you have ideas for articles in future newsletters, we would like to hear from you. Send your recommendations to [npcchurchpoint@cox.net](mailto:npcchurchpoint@cox.net).
- Want to advertise your business to your Church Point neighbors? We accept ads as small as a business card up to a full page. If you are interested in placing an ad in a future newsletter for a nominal fee (to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter), please contact Ali Mercer at Select Group or email [npcchurchpoint@cox.net](mailto:npcchurchpoint@cox.net). We'll send you a form with prices and other information you'll need. The form is also available at our website, [www.churchpointonline.com](http://www.churchpointonline.com) in the "Ads" section. Newsletters are currently published around the end of January, April, July, and October.
- Past issues of the *Church Point Post* are available on-line at the Church Point web site ([www.churchpointonline.com](http://www.churchpointonline.com)).

### **2006 HOA Board of Directors**

President:	Neal Curtin	<a href="mailto:npcchurchpoint@cox.net">npcchurchpoint@cox.net</a>
Vice-President:	Justin Keenan	<a href="mailto:justinkeenan2003@yahoo.com">justinkeenan2003@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer:	Jack Steele	<a href="mailto:PSteele@CB-pro.com">PSteele@CB-pro.com</a>
Secretary:	Peggy Dickens	<a href="mailto:edickens5@cox.net">edickens5@cox.net</a>
At-Large:	Vacant	

### **HOA Management Company**

**Select Group** Phone 757 486-6000  
Fax 757 486-4988  
**Association Manager:** Allison Mercer  
[amercer@theselectgroup.us](mailto:amercer@theselectgroup.us)