



CHURCH POINT POST

Homeowners Association Quarterly Newsletter

President's Corner - Fall 2024

By Gary Lauck, HOA President

Neighbors,

Fall is here, there are many things to talk about, and I am going to cover a few of the more important points.

Let's start with Rules and Regulations. Our community is more than a collection of houses; it's a place we call home, where we take pride in our surroundings and where our property values continue to grow thanks to everyone's commitment to maintaining a well-kept and attractive environment.

One of the key ways we can continue to enhance the beauty and value of our neighborhood is by following the rules and regulations set forth by the HOA. These guidelines are not just arbitrary rules; they are designed to ensure that our community remains a desirable place to live and that property values are protected for everyone.



Despite an uptick of violations handed out this summer, I can assure you that the board has not made any changes to rule enforcement. In fact, we are working to ensure that the rules make sense and are enforced in a consistent manner for the betterment of all homeowners. The board is having discussions regarding the upkeep of the neighborhood, to include fencing, general landscaping, mailboxes, mold/mildew buildup, and even rules for basketball hoops and soccer nets. Our goal is to enforce what is on the books in a way that best satisfies both the community and individual homeowners. And if it's time to tweak or change a rule, we are ready to listen.

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By keeping up with these areas, not only do we enhance the appearance of our neighborhood, but we also help to preserve and even increase our property values. When each of us takes pride in our own homes, it reflects on the entire community, creating a place that we can all enjoy and be proud of.

We have recently noticed a few political signs popping up in the community – the bottom line is that political signs are prohibited in Church Point.

If you have any questions about the HOA guidelines or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Board at board@churchpointonline.com.



The Social Committee is busy working on fall plans, to include a Halloween Parade (Sunday, Oct 27 at 1pm), Christmas Party (TBD), and the annual Church Point Christmas decorating contest (TBD).

If someone is interested in heading up a Turkey Trot fun run around Thanksgiving, please contact the social committee at social@churchpointonline.com. Finally, the committee is still looking for a new social committee chair. Interested? Please contact the committee!

This year's Homeowner's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, November 25th, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Bayside Recreation Center.

The board will provide a report of accomplishments in FY2024 and how money was invested for the betterment of our community. We look forward to seeing everyone!

That's it for now.

Thank you,
Gary Lauck

Things Accomplished by the Landscaping Committee

By David Vaughn, Co-chairperson of the Landscaping Committee

The Church Point Landscaping Committee currently consists of eight members. The committee members are Robin Chen, Bobbie Hart, Lisa Kyriakides, Cookie McCollum, Pat Steele, and Deb White, Co-Chairs Tanya Mann and David Vaughn. Tanya and David would like to thank everyone for all of their efforts and help to keep our neighborhood beautiful. We are always open to comments for improvement and welcome more volunteers to help out!



A few of the things being accomplished by the Landscaping Committee:

- Keeping an eye on mowing and various landscaping processes in the neighborhood.
- Reporting issues on our tracking system and also to our landscaping contractor. Following up to insure completion.
- Identifying streetlights with issues throughout the neighborhood and assist with getting repairs done by Dominion.
- Viewing all the neighborhood areas homes landscaping and choosing the Landscape of the Month.

Completed items in the Thoroughgood Trails Commons Area:

- Remove two fallen trees.

Completed items at the Mews Entrance:

- Elevate/trim holly trees at the Mews Entrance to allow a clear view of traffic on First Court Rd.

Completed items in the Commons Park bordering Church Point Rd.:

- Remove 2-dead pear trees.
- Elevate branches to 6ft and trim dead wood from all remaining adjacent trees.
- Remove broken Cherry tree cluster.
- Remove broken Red Bud tree.
- Remove fallen tree behind 4035 Timber Ridge Drive.
- Remove vines from bush next to pump house.
- Remove redbud growing into hackberry.
- Fill 6ft x 6ft sinkhole at base of pine tree near 4012 Church Point Road. with topsoil.
- Ground all stumps, backfilled all with topsoil and seed all disturbed areas with grass seed.

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Completed items in the Quays Park:

- Remove broken Cherry tree cluster.
- Remove two trees located behind 3821 Church Point Road.
- Remove overhanging tree limbs behind 1661 Church Point Lane and trim all deadwood from the area. Remove all debris.
- Trim dead wood from tree behind 1665 Church Point Lane.
- Remove tree behind 3912 Meeting House Road. Grind the stump to 6” below surface.

Future Planned Work:

Currently we have Requests for Quotes out to our tree contractors, but have been delayed due to their current availability. The targeted trees are for the Carriage Path Trails Commons area and the Commons Park bordering Timber Ridge Drive. There are many trees in this area requiring work, therefore, the work will be quoted and completed in phases to allow us to manage our spending to stay within our allotted budget.

News from the Church Point Garden Club

By Suzie Duckworth, President of the Church Point Garden Club

We are an active garden club and we are associated with the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach. You can find more information about the Garden Club on the Church Point website at <https://churchpointonline.com/church-point-garden-club/>.

If you are interested in joining the Church Point Garden Club, please contact me.

Suzie Duckworth
suzied44@cox.net

New Budget Increase

By Don Degner, HOA Treasurer

Today's political climate has been riveting and controversial. The major topic has been the cost of living due to inflation coupled with other specific party concerns. Inflation has also affected the expenses associated with the Church Point Budget. The quarterly assessment will increase by \$25.00 to \$175.00.

Several factors play into the assessment increase. The Management Contract, Insurance, Lake Maintenance and Fountain Contract, and upgrades in the Irrigation System will have standard contractual increases next fiscal year. The most substantial increase will be from Lawn Care and Maintenance. As bids are received and considered, the increase will range up to an additional \$25,000. Tree Maintenance has been a major project this year with a \$30,000 spend and will be a major project next year.



Another project for FY2025 is to finalize the new Governing Documents which will increase legal fees and copying/mailling hard copy documents. A substantial investment was paid to our corporate attorney in FY2023. The Documents are complete with the exception of a few changes. Once the few changes have been made, they will be mailed to all members of the HOA for a final vote of approval at the 2025 Homeowners Annual Meeting.

We look forward toward seeing everyone at this year's Homeowner's Annual Meeting which will be Monday, November 25, 2024, 6:30 PM in the Bayside Recreation Center. This will be a dynamic meeting that will report what your board has accomplished in FY2024 and how your money was invested into the betterment of our community.

Communications Committee Update

By Johan Goossens, Chairperson of the Communication Committee

After spending a lot of time over the last three years helping the Church Point Homeowners Association, I've come to the realization that it's time for me to move on. So for personal reasons, I have resigned as chairperson Communications Committee effective September 10th, 2024. To not leave the HOA hanging and facilitate an orderly transfer, I have offered to continue as interim chairperson doing routine website updates and send out email notifications until the end of 2024.

To help the board find a new chairperson, I've put together a quick history on why we are where we are today and what skillset the next chairperson or committee members should have.

Website History

- In the early 2000s, the First HOA website was setup. At that point it was a simple website with a handful of static pages maintained with Microsoft FrontPage.
- Around 2012, the website was changed to use the WordPress blogging engine which would allow for more dynamic content.
- Unfortunately, the dynamic features were never used (with the exception of a Google Calendar fro announce board meetings) and the website continued to only contain a handful of pages and a few documents.
- By 2021, the website was in a poor state. The software was almost a decade out of date, had numerous security issues and was being abused by shady hackers.
- I offered to update all the software, make it save again, modernize the look and feel, and assist the webmaster in collecting more content.
- Unexpectedly, the webmaster pass away in the spring of 2022 and I volunteered to continue the work by myself.
- Today, the website is still based on WordPress and we have over 200 pages of information.
- Early 2024, an opt-in/opt-out communication system was added based on the MailChimp software.

Required Skills

- Computer Science background.
- Knowledge of website design including knowledge of the following: HTML, CSS, JavaScript.
- Experience with the WordPress blogging software and the most often used extensions.
- UNIX System administration skills including DNS, Mail Services, Apache Web Server.
- Programming skills including PHP, JavaScript and Python.

If you have these skills or know someone that has these skills, please reach out to the Board of Directors by sending an email to board@churchpointonline.com. To see a full list of Communication Committee responsibilities, please see the website at <https://churchpointonline.com/communications-committee/>.

It was a pleasure and privilege to serve this great neighborhood that I've lived in for 26 years.

Protecting Our Tap Water

By the City of Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach Public Utilities is committed to protecting public health by providing clean, reliable drinking water to our customers.

In 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), which requires all drinking water systems across the country to conduct an inventory of public and private water service line materials in their service area.

To prepare the inventory, Virginia Beach Public Utilities is researching historical records of service line materials and plumbing code requirements at the time of the property’s construction, applying representative sampling to determine the service line material, and performing excavations on each side of the property’s water meter to visually verify the service line material. You may see crews in your neighborhood!

To check the service lines, our contractor will dig a roughly ten-inch hole on each side of the water meter and confirm the service line material. The area will be restored once the work is complete. Customers will receive a door hanger notice one week in advance if visual inspections are occurring at their property.

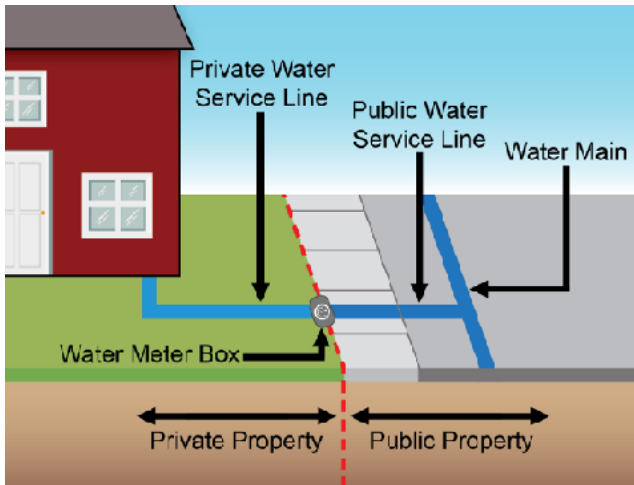


With roughly 90% of the public water services lines and 85% of the private water service lines in Virginia Beach inventoried, Virginia Beach Public Utilities has identified **no lead water service lines to date.**

Committed to protecting public health by providing clean, reliable drinking water to its customers, the department’s efforts to inventory the city’s water service line materials include:

- Researching historical records of service line materials and plumbing code requirements at the time of the property’s construction
- Performing excavations on each side of the property’s water meter to visually verify the public and private service line materials
- Applying representative sampling to determine the service line material

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The public side of the water service line is from the water main up to and including the water meter and is the responsibility of Virginia Beach Public Utilities. The private side of the water service line is from the water meter to the dwelling/building and is the responsibility of the property owner.

Water Service Line Material

Customers can search their address on the [water service line material inventory map](#) to learn the material of both the public water service line and private water service line serving their property. Because Virginia Beach Public Utilities is still actively conducting its water service line inventory, the water service line material for some properties is not yet available on the map.

Customers whose water service line material has not yet been identified will receive a letter notifying them that their service line material is “unknown, but may be lead.” This specific language is required by the EPA. Customers should not be alarmed if they receive this notice, as Virginia Beach Public Utilities is actively working to ensure all water service line materials are identified and included in the inventory.

What happens if lead is found?

Though the department does not anticipate finding any lead materials, if lead is found, the following actions will be taken:

- If lead is found on the public side of the water service line, Virginia Beach Public Utilities will replace its portion of the water service line.
- If lead is found on the private side of the water service line, the property owner will be encouraged to replace their portion of the water service line. The property owner could be eligible for financial assistance through grant funding to replace their private lead service line.

As a reminder, to date, no lead public or private water service lines have been found in Virginia Beach’s water distribution system.

Virginia Beach Public Utilities expects to complete its water service line inventory by July 2028. For more information about the Lead and Copper Rule revisions and Virginia Beach Public Utilities’ role in protecting your tap water, visit VirginiaBeach.gov/Lead.

The Essential Role of Pollinating Insects and the Importance of Pollinator Gardens

By Lili Couture

Pollinating insects, such as bees and butterflies, play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity and supporting ecosystems. These small but mighty creatures contribute to the pollination of approximately 75% of the world's flowering plants and around 35% of global food crops. Their decline poses significant threats not only to our food supply but also to the health of the environment. One effective way to support these vital pollinators is through the creation of pollinator gardens in our neighborhoods.

Benefits of Pollinator Gardens

Creating pollinator gardens in local communities provides numerous benefits. Firstly, these gardens foster a rich environment for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators by offering a variety of flowering plants that bloom throughout the growing season. A diverse selection of native plants, which are adapted to local conditions, ensures that pollinators have access to food sources at different times of the year. This diversity not only supports the insects themselves but also enhances the beauty of our neighborhoods, making them more vibrant and inviting.



Environmental Impact

Pollinator gardens enhance local biodiversity by providing habitats for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. These gardens promote a healthier ecosystem, as diverse plant life supports various species, helping to create a balanced environment. They improve soil quality, reduce erosion, and enhance water retention, thereby promoting a healthier habitat for various species. Furthermore, these gardens can mitigate the effects of urban heat islands by providing shaded areas and cooling surfaces. By incorporating native plants, these gardens also support local wildlife, including birds and other beneficial insects, creating a balanced ecosystem. Studies show that gardens with a variety of native plants can increase pollinator diversity by up to 50%. Native plants, in particular, are essential because they are adapted to local conditions and support local wildlife, making them a cornerstone of effective pollinator gardens.

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Economic Implications

Pollinator gardens also yield economic benefits. The presence of healthy pollinator populations can enhance local agriculture and increase crop yields, ultimately benefiting local farmers and markets. According to the USDA, pollinators contribute an estimated \$15 billion to the U.S. economy through the pollination of fruits, vegetables, and nuts. It is estimated that one-third of the food we consume relies on pollination. By supporting local pollinator populations through neighborhood gardens, communities can enhance food security and bolster local economies, particularly for farmers and businesses that rely on agricultural products. Additionally, ecotourism can thrive in areas known for their diverse pollinator gardens, attracting visitors interested in experiencing local biodiversity. By investing in pollinator gardens, communities can support their local economies while promoting sustainable practices.

Community Benefits

Creating pollinator gardens fosters community involvement and awareness about the importance of pollinators. These gardens can serve as educational spaces, where community members, especially children, can learn about ecology, gardening, and the significance of conservation. They encourage neighborhood engagement, as residents often collaborate on planting and maintaining these green spaces. Communities with active pollinator gardens have reported increased social cohesion, as they become gathering spots that foster connection and collaboration.



The Importance of Native Planting

Native plants are particularly important in the establishment of effective pollinator gardens. Unlike non-native species, native plants are well-suited to the local climate and soil, requiring less water and maintenance. They also provide specific resources that native pollinators have evolved to depend on, fostering a symbiotic relationship. Southeast Virginia is home to a diverse array of native pollinator plants that play a crucial role in supporting local ecosystems. Species such as coneflower (*Echinacea Purpurea*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), and milkweed (*Asclepias Spp.*) are essential for attracting bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The region's sandy soils and temperate climate support a rich tapestry of wildflowers that bloom throughout the growing season, creating a vibrant habitat for pollinators and enhancing the beauty of gardens and natural areas alike.

By prioritizing native planting, communities can ensure that their gardens not only attract pollinators but also contribute to the conservation of local flora and fauna. By incorporating native species into landscaping and restoration efforts, we can help sustain local wildlife while enjoying the benefits of a thriving, colorful garden.

Conclusion

By establishing pollinator gardens in our neighborhoods, we can enhance community aesthetics, support local ecosystems, boost the economy, and promote the importance of native planting. As we face challenges such as habitat loss and climate change, the creation of these gardens is a proactive step toward preserving our environment and ensuring a sustainable future for both pollinators and humans alike. Embracing the responsibility to cultivate pollinator-friendly spaces is a small yet impactful way each of us can contribute to the well-being of our planet.

I am looking forward to a beautiful Pollinator Garden in Church Point!

Lili Couture

Annual Membership Meeting and Voting

By Don Degner, HOA Treasurer

The annual Membership Meeting is Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Bayside Recreation Center. Be on the lookout for the Annual Homeowner Package which is mailed by The Select Group in a couple of weeks. A quorum is required to select three new board members.

Voting this year will be much easier since Virginia has changed HOA voting regulations and a proxy is not required. Absentee ballots are now acceptable and will be included in the Homeowners Package. The Board is excited to share all the exciting changes and our goals for FY 2025. We hope you can attend the meeting. Long lines to attend the meeting will be absent since the new voting process will only require checking in and receiving a ballot if you did not bring one from the annual package.

Again, absentee ballots will be mailed and can be returned to Select without the proxy process. Thank you in advance for your support and hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Church Point Community Bulletin Board

- 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, please contact the Communications Committee at communications@churchpointonline.com. We'll send you a form with prices and other information you'll need. Newsletters are currently published quarterly.
- If you are looking for babysitters or Church Point youth to do odd jobs, please join the Private Church Point Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/churchpointcommunitygroup>. Young people that want to offer these services, can advertise them in the same private group.
- If you want to contribute an article to a future newsletter, please contact the Communications Committee at communications@churchpointonline.com.
- Past issues of the Church Point Post are available online at the Church Point web site at <https://churchpointonline.com/>.

2024 HOA Board of Directors:

President:	Gary Lauck
Vice President:	Michael Gen
Secretary:	Amit Badiye
Treasurer:	Don Degner
Assistant Treasurer:	Jack Timms

The board can be reached at board@churchpointonline.com.

HOA Managent Company:

Jill C. Albright (jill.C.Albright@theselectgroup.us)
Church Point Property Manager

The Select Group
2224 Virginia Beach Blvd, Suite 201
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454
Phone: 757-486-6000
Fax: 757-486-6988