

The Larkspur News

Volume 2012 Issue 5 January 2012

Visit us on the web at www.larkspurvb.org



Did you know?

Larkspur resident Bob Christian on Hoylake Drive is an amazing artist. We shined the Larkspur Spotlight on this master carver to get to know him better.

Best part of living in Larkspur?

We've lived here 44 years and like the neighbors, location and scenery. We could have moved 10 years ago, but we love the neighborhood and chose to stay.

What are some historical aspects of our neighborhood most residents don't know about?

Larkspur was like a small town in the country in 1967. There were 1,000 children involved in our outstanding sports programs. Tee ball was introduced to Hampton Roads by Larkspur. We had a farm system in all sports that fed the City Rec teams. Larkspur won many city championships in baseball, football, soccer, basketball and more. Victory celebrations

included neighborhood drive-throughs with a lot of horns beeping and neighbors coming out to wave at the kids.

What profession are you in, and for how long?

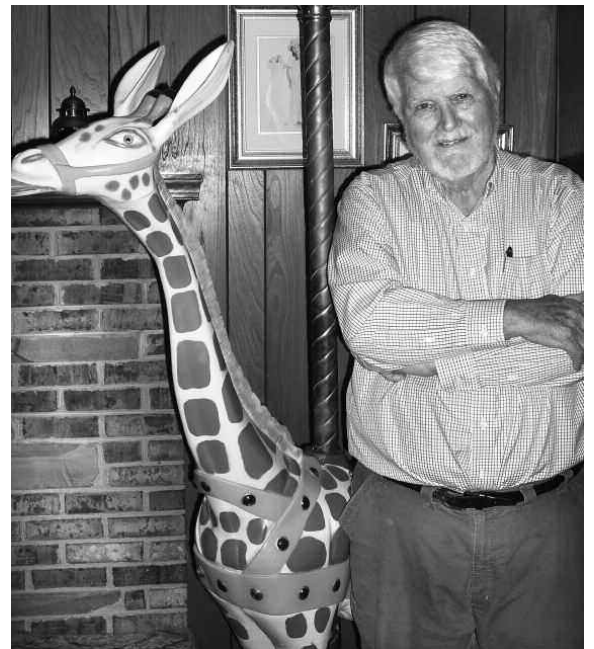
Retired naval aviator, 20 years. Co-owner of our family-run business Esprit Decor Home Furnishings, www.esprit-decor.com, which we opened in 1983.

Tell us about your family?

Wife, Sally. Four children: Mark, Mike, Beth & Ricky. Nine grandchildren.

Favorite hobbies?

Wood carvings for all the grandkids, hunting and gardening. ■



Bob Christian with the giraffe he carved out of wood.

Larkspur Directory Update

If the name on this newsletter is not yours, please call Maureen Humphreys at 495-1154 and she will update the Larkspur Directory.



A wood carving garden gate of a bear.

Join your civic league for only \$20 per year; contact David Rourk at 478-0150.

Larkspur Garden Club News

"A garden is a friend you can visit anytime." Author Unknown

Upcoming Garden Club Meetings

(Meetings are held 10 a.m. – noon the 3rd Tuesday each month)

Jan. 17 – Program: A flower arranging workshop by Joanna Euans

Feb. 21 – "Container Gardening" by Billi Parus (Va. Beach Master Gardener)

March 20 – "Organic Gardening Concepts" by Karen Green
Please contact Katy Cashman at 351-2091 or mikedatc@aol.com for meeting location or to RSVP.

Larkspur Garden Club "Yards of the Month" for 2011

Congratulations to the following families whose beautiful landscapes won the Larkspur Garden Club's "Yard of the Month" in 2011.

April 2011

Joe and Charlotte
Carriker
McGregor Court



May 2011

Barry and
Jeannie Peele
Hagen Drive

August 2011

Jim and Hollie
Godfrey
Wedge Drive

December 2011

**Daytime Holiday
Decorations**
Dave and
Marie Booz
Bob Jones Drive

June 2011

Greg and Deborah
Wooldridge
Sam Snead Court

October 2011

Mark and
Donna Starr
Sam Snead Lane

Evening Holiday Decorations

Chris and Jennifer
Tuttle
Gleneagle Drive

July 2011

Cary and Elizabeth
Savage
Player Lane

November 2011

Frank and Trish
Watson
Sam Snead Lane

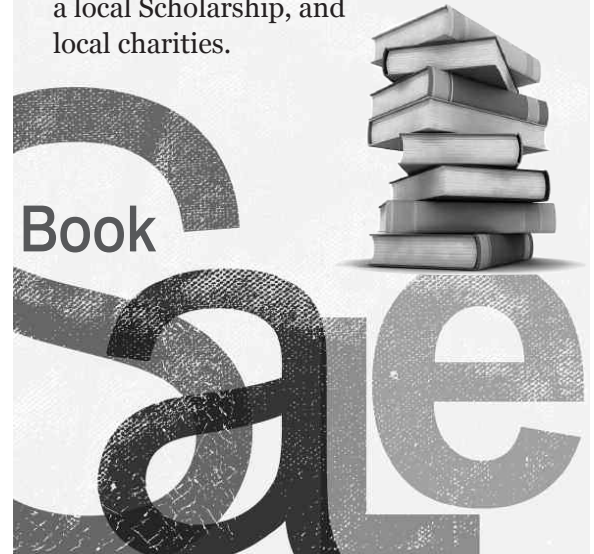
New Members Welcome

Besides learning about gardening, the Larkspur Garden Club is fun and a great way to meet your neighbors. Yearly dues are only \$15. Club functions include monthly meetings, gardening programs, potlucks, trips, annual book sale and garden tours.

For more details or to join, contact Katy Cashman at mikedatc@aol.com or 351-2091.

Annual Book Sale Update

We encourage Larkspur residents to donate gently used books to our annual book sale (May 2012). To do so, please contact Marie Bauckman at 499-5719 or Marie Booz at 497-1055. Proceeds from the book sale go towards our programs, a local Scholarship, and local charities.



Got Spare Time? Need a New Hobby?

Contact these Larkspur residents for more information on:



Bowling League

Preston Carraway
Bunker Dr. • 497-5696

Garden Club

Katy Cashman • Gleneagle Dr. • 351-2091
mikedatc@aol.com



Neighborhood Watch

Maureen Humphreys
Southern Pines Dr. • 495-1154
mhumphreys6@cox.net

To get your organization or hobby listed, please send your information to David Rourk at david@rourkpr.com or 478-0150.

GOT A STORY IDEA – Contact David Rourk at david@rourkpr.com or by calling 478-0150.

Feb. 1 is next Larkspur Civic League Meeting

Members of Virginia Beach's Community Services Board (CSB) will be our quest speakers at the Feb 1. Larkspur Civic League Meeting, 7 p.m., at Kempsville Meadows Elementary School.

During the last fiscal year, CSB served 8,670 adults with mental health or substance abuse disorders, 2,243 individuals with intellectual

disabilities, and 685 children and adolescents.

CSB members will inform us about:

- What it does.
- How it's run.
- Why it is important to the health and welfare of our community.
- How to get the best return on investment.

If you are not yet a civic league

member, you can join at the beginning of the meeting. Cost is only \$20 per year. Membership includes: participation in our free family picnic at the Larkspur pool, a neighborhood directory, representation on Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations, and email alerts regarding neighborhood crime and other important issues you may not see in the news.

Larkspur Business Spotlight

Local financial advisor Renee Rickrode is a frequent visitor to our Civic League meetings, and has her office on the edge of our neighborhood on S. Independence. We shined the Local Business Spotlight on this professional to get to know her better.

What got you interested in becoming a financial advisor?

I had an early interest in investments born from learning about my grandmother's mutual funds. It occurred to me while volunteering with the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society that I could combine my desire to help people with my interest in investing. My husband & I had been Edward Jones clients for years and it hit me one day, why not do the two things I enjoy most, investing and helping people reach their financial goals.

How long have you been an advisor?

I have been a licensed financial advisor with Edward Jones since 2009. Although, it seems a lot longer with how the market has been behaving!

Services Offered?

What's great about Edward Jones is

that I have an array of products and services to offer. Most of my clients' needs center around preparing for retirement, enjoying retirement, paying for an education, and saving money on taxes. Our products and services cover all of these needs including (but of course not limited to) IRA's, investments (like stocks, bonds and mutual funds), and protecting assets with insurance including life and long-term care.

Best part about being a financial advisor?

The most rewarding part for me is the accomplishment of seeing it through. I think of a financial advisor as a doctor of money so to speak. Medical doctors get to heal people physically. I help people financially with retirement, sending their children and/or grandchildren to college, and one day passing on their legacy to their heirs. I consider it a great privilege that I am able to share in these important moments in my clients' lives.

What do most people not know about building wealth?

Building wealth is not about chasing yield (not that we all don't like to make money) or reaching a "magic



Renee Rickrode, local financial advisor

number", it is about planning and protecting. You can't say that you are going to run a 5K and never explore what it will take for you to accomplish that goal and protect it. At Edward Jones we use 5 steps over and over again and it works: (1) Determine where you are today. (2) Figure out where you would like to be. (3) Examine if you can get there. (4) Plan how to get there. (5) Stay on track. Many people stop at step 4 and when something unexpected happens they

Continued on page 4

realize they have not protected their plan. It can destroy all their hard work and diminish wealth.

Tell us about your family?

One of my most favorite topics! My husband Mark and I are proud parents of our son Colin, who turned 4 in August. He is the center of our universe. He amazes me every day with the things he learns and observes. Mark and I have been married 16 years this month. He is in the Navy, so we don't have any family close by but we have great friends stemming from our military family as well as some

awesome neighbors. My folks are in Florida and Mark's family is in Pennsylvania, so we have someplace to go in both the winter and the summer!

Community involvement?

I continue to volunteer as a case-worker with the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, counseling and assisting Navy & Marine active duty members, retirees, and dependents in times of financial difficulty. And, I'm a member of the Larkspur Civic League, which is an honor and privilege to be a part of your great community.

Favorite hobbies?

Does sitting around in PJ's with my son eating chocolate chip pancakes count?? My hobbies revolve around my family and friends. We love to eat together, relax and go with the flow. If it's a beautiful day, we head to a park or ride bikes in our neighborhood. I love to dive into a good book for a little down time, all genres, as long as they are engaging. Right now I am finishing up George Bush's, Decision Points. Regardless of your political affiliation, I think everyone can gain insight from a book like this.

Local Hero: Battalion Chief Laurie Gurley

This month, the Larkspur News would like to recognize Virginia Beach Battalion Chief Laurie Gurley

On Oct. 15, 2011, Tidewater Regional Fire Academy #136 began training in Virginia Beach under the leadership of Battalion Chief Laurie Gurley. Laurie is one of the highest-ranking females in the Virginia Beach Fire Department (VBFD) and has distinguished herself as an exemplary leader in a male dominated field.

Among the 350,000 paid firefighters in the nation today, only 3.7 percent are women. More than half of the nation's paid fire departments have never had a female firefighter on staff.

At the fire academy class, Chief Gurley leads a staff of highly trained instructors committed to ensuring every recruit firefighter is trained and ready to work seamlessly in a team of professionals dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of Virginia Beach's citizens and visitors.

Chief Gurley has a personal passion for maintaining the VBFD's reputation as one of the best-trained and most respected fire departments in the nation. She not only holds her in-

structors and recruits to high standards but is a living model of what it means to be a professional member of the modern fire service.

With 25 years of service, Chief Gurley is the senior female employee in the VBFD. As a firefighter, she was assigned to the Technical Rescue Team and also served 17 years with Virginia Task Force 2/FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team.

She is a Board Certified Fire Investigator/Inspector and prior to becoming the Training Chief was the operational leader of the Marine Division. She now sits on the Hampton Roads Training Chief's Committee and the VA Dept of Fire Programs Fire Service Training Board.

Chief Gurley holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University and received her Chief Fire Officer designation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. She continues to strive for excellence and is currently completing her final research project for the Executive Fire



Battalion Chief Laurie Gurley

Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md.

In January 2012, Chief Gurley will compete for promotion to District Chief.

If you would like the Larkspur News to recognize a hero who serves Larkspur and Virginia Beach, please email the information to David Rourke at david@rourkepr.com.



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Larkspur News is a bi-monthly publication

Advertising Rates

| Ad Size | Inches | Cost |
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| 1/4-page | 3.5" w x 4.75" h | \$120 per issue |
| 1/2-page | 7.5" w x 4.75" h | \$180 per issue |
| Full-page | 7.5" w x 10" h | \$300 per issue |
| Biz card | 3.5" w x 3" h | \$80 per issue |

To advertise, please contact David Rourk at david@rourkpr.com



ChantelRay

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\$280,000

3 Bed 2 Bath Sq Ft: 1,971



4625 Hoylake Drive

\$320,000

3 Bed 2 Bath Sq Ft: 2,183



512 Edwin Drive

\$284,900

4 Bed 2.5 Bath Sq Ft: 2,288

"If it has to sell, call Chantel!"



4601 Hagen Drive

\$329,900

4 Bed 3 Bath Sq Ft: 2,557

Check out these other homes SOLD in Larkspur:

657 Edwin Drive \$289,900 Bed:3 Bath:2

4583 Southern Pines Drive \$327,500 Bed:5 Bath: 3

4621 Tony Lema Lane \$270,000 Bed:4 Bath:3

4616 McGregor Drive \$360,000 Bed:4 Bath: 2



500 Ben Hogan Drive

\$359,900

4 Bed 4 Bath Sq Ft: 2,800



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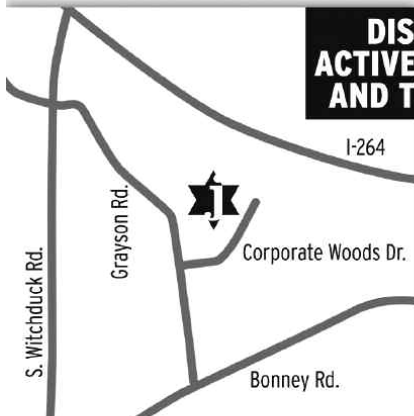
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Larkspur Trustees 2012

The Trustees are the governing body for the Larkspur community. Each sub-division of Larkspur is represented by two Trustees. Our Trustees are on the front line regarding all matters that keep Larkspur the beautiful and safe area it has been for over 50 years.

Larkspur I

Ollie Bates 630-4506
James Reese 467-0453

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Joe Yurso 495-9856

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Nancy Souldourian 333-6018

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Maureen Humphreys 495-1154
Kirk Baldwin 490-1945
Fred Benham 467-0816
Floyd Gilbert 467-6435

Join Your Neighbors in our Civic League

Larkspur Civic League Membership
Application for 2012

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Names: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: _____

I wish to learn more about
 Swim & Racquet Club
 Neighborhood Watch Garden Club
 Serving on the Civic League Board of Trustess

Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year. New and renewing members, please send payments (payable to the Larkspur Civic League) to the Membership Chairman, David Rourk at 4548 Bob Jones Dr., Virginia Beach VA 23462-4508

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Retirement May Be Far Off, But the April 17 Deadline for IRA Contributions Isn't.

You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2011 IRA contribution before the April 17 deadline.

By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it's easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA and begin receiving the face-to-face guidance you deserve.

To learn more about the advantages of an Edward Jones IRA, call or visit today.



Renee L. Rickrode

Financial Advisor

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Larkspur Swim & Raquet Club Membership Special

By Drew Miller, President, Larkspur Swim & Racquet Club

The 2012 season is just around the corner, and we are offering current members and new members some special membership prices now through Dec. 1. If you have questions, please contact Alice Catherman at 467-0421 or cathermanfamily@cox.net

Option 1: Family Membership - \$395. The lowest price available for a full 2012 Family Membership. A \$50 savings from our regular price. You must pay in full by Dec. 1.

Option 2: Family Membership - \$100 deposit required for a \$25 savings. By providing a deposit,

you are guaranteed a full Family Membership for \$420. Please pay your deposit by Dec. 1.

Option 3: Membership - \$50 deposit locks in 2011 prices for Couples & Individual membership. Please must pay your deposit by Dec. 1.

Simply mail the below Membership Application with your payment to:

LARKSPUR SWIM AND RACQUET CLUB LTD.
PO Box 62177 • Virginia Beach, VA 23466

Member Name/Category _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Payment Enclosed _____

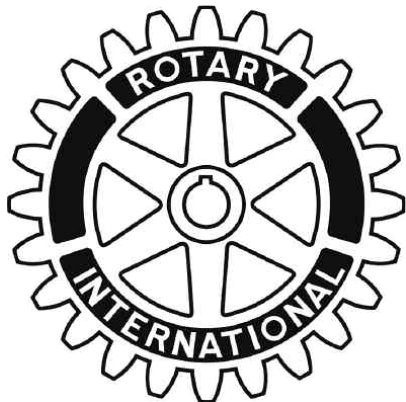
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SALESMAN OF THE YEAR: 2001 - 2002 - 2003 - 2008 - 2009 - 2010

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For 84 years, the **Virginia Beach Rotary Club** has improved the world by helping local charities and international projects focus on Health, Hunger & Humanity.

We invite **Larkspur residents** to join us for dinner to meet our members and learn about our "Service Above Self" attitude and camaraderie.

Our club meets every Thursday 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Doubletree Hotel on 19th St. near the VB Convention Center.

Learn more about us at www.vbrotary.com or call 481-7336.

Sponsored by Rotarian Bob Scott.

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ANY MEAL through Feb. 29

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Hope to see you soon!

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**If you would like to be added to this list, please contact David Rourk
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ATTENTION ... If the name on this newsletter is not yours, please call Maureen Humphreys at 495-1154.

Larkspur Business Spotlight

Larkspur resident **Nancy Souldourian** of Meadows Drive has been a REALTOR for over 18 years and is best known for her attention to detail and exemplary service with a smile. She cares greatly for her clients and goes the extra mile when needed. Her clients love to refer others to for her services. She has educated herself by earning the following designations: Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), Graduate REALTOR Institute (GRI), Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES), Accredited Buyers Representative (ABR), Certified New Homes Professional (CSP), Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource (SFR).



Services offered?

Negotiating contracts, showing properties, research for clients, and marketing properties. Serves on the Professional Standards and REALTOR/Lawyer committees at the Hampton Roads REALTORS Association.

Best part of being a REALTOR?

Assisting buyers and sellers achieve their goal in purchasing or selling their home. Seeing the joy on a buyer's face when they close on their own home and sellers when they sell current home then purchase another home!

Tell us about your family?

Married to the same wonderful man, Sal,

for over 44 years, two sons, and one grandson. Two cats, Max and Cricket, who allow me and Sal to live with them on Meadows Drive!

Best part of living in Larkspur?

Wonderful neighbors, convenience to everything, well kept homes and years that show pride of ownership in a great community!

Community involvement?

Member of the Larkspur Garden Club and a trustee for Larkspur Farms.

Favorite hobbies?

My work with real estate is my hobby. I love what I do. When I have time, I like to read.



Nancy Souldourian
Realtor