

Did you know?

Larkspur resident **Diana Ruchelman** on Heather Drive is a city council-appointed member of the Virginia Beach Community Services Board.

We shined the Larkspur Spotlight on this community-minded professional to get to know her better.

How long have you volunteered with Virginia Beach Human Services, and what do you do?

I have been a member of the Community Service Board for 5 years and I am beginning my 3rd year as Chair. All members of the board are volunteers who have been appointed by city council. They are individuals who have family members who have benefitted from CSB services, individuals who have received services, or have knowledge of and are interested in maintaining quality services in our community.

As a retired social worker and administrator, I was familiar with the work of CSB. I attend monthly board meetings and committee meetings to review and evaluate community based programs. Our board members educate and advocate for CSB with community organizations, legislators and city council members.

What gives you the most satisfaction from your volunteer

work? I am proud to serve an outstanding organization that does such wonderful work assisting individuals to build a better life and learn to manage their disabilities. The board consists of capable people who are devoted to the goals of CSB. Our professionals who provide the direct service are inspiring. I have learned so much about the many programs of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, the Developmental Services Division, and the many issues related to service provision and how vital they are to the wellbeing of our community.

Does the CSB need more volunteers? If so, why? At the present time, volunteers providing administrative support would be a big help to the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Division.

Clover Watson is the coordinator at 385-0502

Birthplace? New York

Education? Masters in English and Masters in Social Work.

First job growing up? Sales in Macy's.

Best part of living in Larkspur?

Diana Ruchelman City council-appointed member

Resident of Larkspur for more than 30 years. It is a lovely neighborhood and it is centrally located with easy access to all that the Tidewater has to offer.

Tell us about your family? Married with 2 children, 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Favorite hobbies? Travelling, oil painting, and reading.

Recently read? *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. It's about a remarkable group of women during the time of Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

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) **March 20** – "Organic Gardening Concepts" by Karen Renda **April 17** – General meeting **May 15** – Garden tour of the "New Kitchen Garden", Va. Beach Farmer's Market **June 19** – Luncheon and Installation Ceremony

New Members Welcome

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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 mikekatc@aol.com or 351-2091.**

Annual Book Sale Update

We encourage Larkspur residents to donate gently used books to our annual book sale in May 2012 at the Larkspur Pool & Tennis Clubhouse. If you have any books to donate,

please contact Marie Booz-497-1055. Proceeds from the book sale go towards our programs, a local



Scholarship, and local charities.



Spare Time? Volunteer? New Hobby? Business Networking?

Contact these Larkspur residents for more information on:

Bowling League

Preston Carraway Bunker Dr. 497-5696



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





Neighborhood Watch

Volunteers Needed at Virginia Beach Department of Human Services

For highly successful financial literacy program called Bank ON. Training provided. Contact: Lori Irwin, Lirwin@vbgov.com

3 Volunteers Needed as reading tutors in the Developmental Services Unit to assist reading teacher with motivated adults with a mild intellectual disability. Tuesday, 6 – 7 p.m. Contact: Karen Merils, 385-4225

Business Networking

Jeanie Pender Pinebrook Dr. BNI Chapter Every Wed, 7:30 am Greenbrier 510-5753 jeanie@rtbconstruction.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.

April 25 is next Larkspur Civic League Meeting

The planned speakers for our April 25 Civic League meeting are:

Patricia Cook, Central Librarian, Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library. Patricia will be addressing Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Local History Archives. In addition, she will ask residents about information or materials they would be willing to share and ultimately be

digitized to be placed on the library website.

Susan Palmer of Emergency Services will share valuable information from this vital service provided by the City.

We hope to see you there.

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.

Meet Larkspurs' Longest Service Board Member

Larkspur resident Tom Haddaway of Hoylake Drive is our civic league's longest serving Board Member. We shined the Larkspur Spotlight on this community-minded professional to get to know him better.

Best part about living in Larkspur?

We've been in this house for over 26 years. Larkspur draws family-oriented folks -- usually the ones that enjoy our beautiful tall trees, the quiet streets, and our curious inhabitants -- squirrels, huge variety of birds and other critters. It creates in most minds the peace and calm one enjoys after a long day at work.

The kids who've grown up here take away a bit of a different outlook on life and the fact that they got to know a community of people, by name!

My wife Karen taught at Kempsville Meadows Elementary School for 21 years, and was involved in a variety of other activities such as: Sunday School at St Andrews, Swim Club, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. I served on the Pool Board for 6 years, and also as a CubMaster. ScoutMaster. Soccer coach, Little League Baseball

coach, and also helped start the Neighborhood Youth Soccer League in 1988.

How long have you been on the **Civic League Board and what** made you take on that job?

I've been on the Larkspur Civic League for the past 22 years. I took the job when it appeared no one wanted to deal with some of the controversial issues in Larkspur. I felt the best way to handle it was go discuss the issues with the offending party to let them understand that the neighborhood wasn't very happy with their lack of civic pride. I've been called many names over the years, but I think it's best to talk things out early on rather than holding back concerns which can then lead to bigger problems and overreacting.

How would you evaluate our neighborhood today?

We are going through the rebirth of our fair community. Although I'm glad we have young people moving in with their families and new little ones on the way, I'm saddened whenever I hear that one of our older citizens passed away or that one is moving.



Tom Haddaway **Longest Serving Board Member**

I always remember how great it was to see everyone out on a brisk fall day, raking leaves to burn in the driveway, roasting a hotdog over the fire with the kids and saying hello to your neighbor as the burning leaves helped keep everyone warm. It wasn't exactly Norman Rockwell but damn close!!

Why should residents get involved with our Civic League?

We've had many civic league victories, and that's because our civic

Continued on page 4

league is consistently active and strong. Many of the surrounding civic leagues tend to wander a wavy road of up and down, but not Larkspur. Politically, we've stayed in touch with our city leaders and we consistently hold a loud voice for our neighborhood.

We need to stay that way, which means we need more voices. For those who sit on the sideline and throw a stone every now and then, they don't realize that consistency is power when it comes to civic leagues and municipal governments.

Professional career?

I graduated from a maritime school in the late sixties, sailed as an engineer, and worked shore side for different companies such as Carrier Corporation. During the 90's I sailed LNG carriers (125,000 cubic meters) for 10 years and retired my Chief engineers and Master licenses in 2001. For the last 11 years, I've worked in the mechanical contracting world (commercial and industrial), and I'm the co-owner of JonesMechanical Heating & Cooling. (Ad on page 9)

Best part of your profession?

Solving problems. I've worked on the largest buildings in the world and just about everything in-between -- from small boilers to 50,000 horsepower boilers; small air conditioning units to 5,000-ton chillers. When I'm keeping people warm or cool, in a house or a skyscraper, I enjoy every facet of the work.

Tom Haddaway contact:

663-1917, thonathad@cox.net

Collaboration Takes Kempes Village from Good to Great Plan

By Jack Pope, President, Hampton Roads Housing Company

The Best Ideas are Collaborations

When the City of Virginia Beach asked for proposals on redeveloping the area near the former Kemps Landing Magnet School, I was excited by the richness of history in the Kempsville area and submitted a plan.

Between then and now, I've collaborated with neighboring civic leagues and hundreds of citizens who care about preserving historic Kempsville and wanted to contribute suggestions, ideas and point out improvements.

As a former Kempsville resident, I really want to create a vision that respects and honors historic Kempsville, with Colonial-style architecture, landscaped courtyards and greenspace. I also want to preserve Kemps Landing School, which dates back 70+ years and was originally Kempsville High School.

The current plan for Kempes Village is the fifth version of the plan, and it incorporates many Kempsville civic league and resident suggestions. It preserves the historic character and architecture of Kempsville while helping to creating an iconic gateway that Kempsville needs.

Among the improvements are:

- Doubled green space from 2.5 acres to 5.1 acres, 3 of which are in a Fairfield buffer.
- Enhanced walking paths which connect historic landmarks which may include QR coded monuments and an area within the school dedicated to the history of Kempsville. These paths will also be nature trails with monuments pointing out the state of the art features to treat storm water before it reaches Fox Run Canal.
- Improved traffic impacts, which are reduced 27% from the original plan and 40% below 2004 levels when demolition began at the intersection.
- Reduced and redesigned parking with a 40% reduction in asphalt from the original plan.



Jack Pope, President Hampton Roads Housing Company

- Proposed housing reduced by 66 units and will be 100% upscale units.
- Improved the cut-through problem on Lord Dunmore Drive with a "right in and right out" entrance on Kempsville Road with more speed bumps, entrance pavers and a "roundabout."

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Continued from page 3 – Collaboration takes Kempes Village from good to great plan

• Expanded the mixed use by adding vertical mixed-use within the schoolhouse and two buildings on the western boundary to the horizontal mixed-use within the intersection.

This collaborative plan is worlds better than the plan I originally suggested last year. Kempes Village preserves Kemps Landing School , incorporates sensitive Colonial architecture, and is landscaped and designed to shield cars from view from Princess Anne and Kempsville Roads.

The project also will serve as an

economic engine during a time when we badly need it. Kempes Village will create approximately 474 jobs during construction and over 100 ongoing jobs thereafter. That means \$46 million of local wages and taxes paid and almost \$13 million of the same on an ongoing basis.

I believe the current plan is respectful of the importance of Kempsville's history, collaborative with ideas from community stakeholders, and also makes business sense for local businesses and Virginia Beach in general. We were happy to collaborate with local residents to improve the plan and mitigate impacts as best as we could.

Of course, we couldn't make everyone happy. I respectfully disagree with some who favor doing nothing. I think there are a lot of positives to enhancing the historic character of Kempsville, preserving a landmark school and being economically responsible with a private sector plan.

I believe that's what we've done, and I'd like to publicly thank everyone who has volunteered to be part of this process in improving our proposal to be one that will be magnificent.

Neighborhood Watch Update

Vehicle Break-ins on the Increase



By Maureen Humphries, Larkspur Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

While home invasions and burglaries have waned in Larkspur, there are still incidents. Last month an individual was home when it was broken into.

We now have a new problem – vehicle break-ins. What started on Rosalie Court spread to Hoylake, Edwin, Southern Pines and Southleaf. The latest break-in reported to me occurred on Sam Snead.

So far, money seems to be the target. If your car was broken into or if you left it unlocked and found the doors ajar, glove box open, or interior light on -- even if nothing was taken -- I hope you filed a police report. If you haven't, please do so now. Let the 4th Precinct be aware of these situations. We certainly won't get extra patrols in our neighborhoods if we take a nonchalant attitude that, "Oh, well, nothing was taken."

Residents told me that a teen on a bright yellow BMX bike was seen breaking into a neighbor's car after curfew. He and his buddy raced up Edwin and over to Hoylake Dr. This may indicate that the teens live in Larkspur off Hoylake.

To all residents, keep your vehicles locked ALL the time. Don't keep weapons or wallets in your car when you aren't in it.

Parents, if your teen owns a bright yellow BMX, do you know where he and his bike are once it starts to get dark?

Email Alerts

Residents/tenants, if you want to be notified of crimes in our neighborhood, make sure your Block Captain in the Neighborhood Watch Program has your email. If you don't know who your Block Captain is, please email me at nhwatchlarkspuro1@ cox.net with your email address and I will put you on the list to be notified. (My email address is case sensitive, use all lowercase letters.)

Block Captains, if you haven't already done so, please provide your email list to me and keep a copy for yourself. I still need a few people to help deliver the Neighborhood Watch booklets. If you can help, please email me.

Stay vigilant

Remember, call 911 if you notice any suspicious activities such as:

- A parked car with individuals sitting in it for a long period of time.
- Congregations of people in the street or on a corner after curfew time.
- Possible drug dealing or teens having sex under the bushes.

If we get the reputation for being "Alert" to our surroundings and calling 911 or the non-emergency number 385-2800 (4th Precinct), perhaps the vandals, druggies, and delinquents in our midst will be caught, prosecuted and spend time where they can't bother the Larkspur neighborhoods or any others.

Thanks Preston

This is a "special thanks" to Preston Carraway on Bunker Drive who graciously printed all of our Neighborhood Watch Booklets.

Two Great Services, One Convenient Location!







Jeanie Pender RTB Construction, LLC License #2705-124104A

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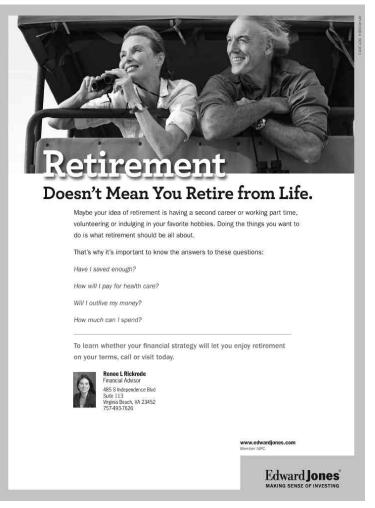
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ELECTRONICS

Ron Komornik Green Valley Drive Beach Electronics & Manufacturing, Inc. ron.komornik@beachem.com www.beachem.com

FINANCIAL ADVISOR Renee Rickrode Edward Jones Civic League Member 493-7626

HOME FURNITURE

Sally Christian Hoylake Dr. **Esprit Décor** 482-5175 www.esprit-decor.com

HVAC Tom Haddaway Hoylake Dr. Jones Mechanical 663-1917 thonathad@cox.net

LAWN SERVICE Roney Rogers Gleneagle Dr. Prescription Cut Lawn Service 499-2492

NOTARY Frances Germanos Player Lane William E Wood and Associates 717-0589 Service is free to Larkspur residents.

PR & MARKETING David Rourk Bob Jones Dr. Rourk Public Relations 478-0150 david@rourkpr.com www.rourkpr.com PRINTING Dick Olenych Spectrum Printing Civic League Member 473-9977

REALTORS Frances Germanos Player Lane William E Wood and Associates 717-0589 fgermanos@verizon.net www.williamewood.com/ fgermanos

Pam Rogers Leatherwood Dr. **Realty Executives** 679-3700 pamrogersrealtor@gmail.com www.pamrogers.com

Nancy Souldourian Meadows Dr. Prudential Towne Realty 650-1717 nsouldourian@ prudentialtownerealty.com www.NancySold1.com

If you would like to be added to this list, please contact David Rourk at david@rourkpr.com or 478-0150.



Larkspur Student Spotlight

Larkspur student Andrew Haveles on Ironwood Drive is a senior at Tallwood High School in the Global Studies and World Languages Academy. We shined the Larkspur Student Spotlight on our talented neighbor to get to know him better.

Favorite Class? Right now, AP Government, AP Environmental Science, and AP Psychology are among my favorite classes. My teachers make it fun to learn. I also attended the Governor's School for German this past summer at the University of Mary Washington. That was a great experience.

Sports? I played Varsity Golf all four years at Tallwood and was the Team Co-Captain and MVP this year. I won the Coach's Award my junior year.

Selected college? I have been accepted to James Madison University, George Mason University and the University of Mary Washington. I will hear from UVA in April. I plan to study media communications with a minor in international relations.

Future ambitions?

Ultimately, I would like to work for the Disney Corporation.

Best part of living in Larkspur? The best part of living in Larkspur is the people. It is a friendly neighborhood and everyone looks out for each other.

Favorite hobbies? Golf and Greek folk dancing. I am a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral Senior Hellenic Dance group. I also referee soccer.

Fan of? I am a big fan of Red Sox baseball.

Recently read other than school books? The last book that I read was The Hunger Games. It was a great book.



Andrew Haveles Senior at Tallwood High School