

neighborhood NEWS



Late Fall

Larchmont/Edgewater Community News

2004

Civic League Meeting: December 9 at 7:30 PM

Town Hall Meeting

**Historic District discussion with city representatives 9:00 – 12:00
on January 8th in the Larchmont Elementary School Auditorium**

President's Letter

Hi everyone! I hope everything is going well for you leading into the winter season. Both myself and the Board of Directors for the Larchmont/Edgewater Civic League wish you happy and prosperous holidays!

The agenda has changed for the upcoming meeting on December 9th at the Larchmont United Methodist Church (corner of Monroe Pl and Jamestown Cr.) After consulting with the City in regard to the Local Historic District, everyone



Dave O'Dell

the vote one meeting so that we could host a Town Hall meeting with the City to discuss the proposal.

The Town Hall meeting is scheduled for 9:00am on January 8th at Larchmont Elementary in the Auditorium. This would give the entire neighborhood a chance to meet with the City and ask any and all questions they have regarding the Local Historic District. The vote on whether to submit the proposal to the City will

take place at the Civic League meeting following our Town Hall event. Right

See *President's Letter* on back

Membership Bulletin

Please take note: In order to vote on issues at the Larchmont/Edgewater Civic League meetings, you must be a dues-paying member. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis.

We will soon vote on an important issue— Larchmont/Edgewater **Local Historic District**. The vote will be during the **next** calendar year— **2005**.

Be sure to pay your dues prior to this meeting which will be held the end of February or early March, 2005.

Should you have any question, we will have a membership list at the December meeting. Please be sure to mark clearly on your membership form to which year your dues apply.

Many thanks and have a happy Holiday Season.

GET INVOLVED!

Civic League Membership

Join *your* civic league & get involved!

Dues are only \$10 per household per calendar year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Mail to: *Treasurer, Larchmont Civic League,
1041 Jamestown Cres., Norfolk, VA 23508*

Neighborhood Watch

Crime in the Larchmont and Edgewater neighborhoods has fortunately not increased since July, but neither has it decreased. In August we had one burglary, one larceny from an auto, one incident where parts were removed from an auto (stickers, etc.), one stolen vehicle and four cases of vandalism. There were four robberies to individuals, all occurring on Bolling and Rockbridge Avenues, in which the victims' cell phones were taken probably so the victims could not call the police.

See *Neighborhood Watch* on back

President's Letter (cont'd)

now this looks like we will schedule it for sometime in February or early March. Given the importance of this issue, I strongly encourage everyone to attend.

As a reminder, in order to vote at the February meeting, you must pay your 2005 dues. Dues are \$10 per household and each household is entitled to cast one vote per the bylaws. Again, given the importance of this issue, the voting rules will be strictly followed.

The new agenda for December 9th will be a brief presentation by the City on the new recycling containers that will be distributed to the neighborhood. In addition, the committee on the Elizabeth River Trail should be ready to issue their final recommendations on that project. **A vote will be held** immediately following the presentation on whether the Civic League members approve their recommendations and the results will be passed along to the City Council.

I expect a good turnout at both meetings. I look forward to seeing you on December 9th and January 8th. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Neighborhood Watch (cont'd)

This same type of activity was happening in nearby neighborhoods and some of these robberies were gang related.

In September, there was again one burglary (a Play Station video system was taken), one stolen vehicle reported, two incidents of items taken from vehicles (one of which had a stereo removed) and only one incident in which stickers, plates, etc. were taken from a car. This particular crime seems to happen at least once every month. There were also five reports of vandalized vehicles, but nothing was taken from the cars. Only windows and side mirrors were smashed.

Crime on the West Side of Norfolk has been on the decline the last couple of months; down 23% from the same time last year. So lets help keep the stats low. Remember to lock your cars, especially if you have to leave it parked on the street and remove any valuables possible. Be vigilant when walking in the neighborhood late in the evening. If we all take precautions the number of incidents can hopefully reduce even more.

Looking for Old Friends

A fine art photography project is underway here in Hampton Roads and some of you may know, or be, perfect subjects. Helen Jones, a Norfolk photographer is looking for groups of men or women who are of a certain age, who have been friends for a long time, and who gather **together** on a regular basis to maintain and enjoy that friendship.

This project is an outgrowth of her work for an exhibit, *Aging Beauties, Photographs of Seasoned Flowers* currently being shown in galleries and museums here in the U.S. In that exhibit, she focused on aging flowers. Most of them looked very different than when they were first in bloom, and it was a revelation to see how vibrant and transformative their beauty was at later stages in their lives.

She already believed that to be true of many things that show their age - buildings, cars, wine and, of course, people. The added element of long-time friendships, however, is what she wants to emphasize in this project.

There's no money involved. She can't pay you and you don't have to pay her. All that's needed is time together. She'll make a photo for all who participate. You can see her work at:

www.helenjonesphotos.com

If you're interested or know someone who may be, contact her at: 640-8695. E-mail is: helenjonesphotos@whro.net

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Elizabeth River Trail

For over a year, a Civic League committee has been working on a recommended route for the Elizabeth River Trail through the Larchmont/Edgewater area. The recommended route was presented at the June Civic League meeting and some questions for further research identified. These items have now been pursued and the recommended route is shown. The following are questions and answers on the Trail as it pertains to our neighborhood..

Q. What is the Elizabeth River Trail?

A. The Elizabeth River Trail is a marked multi-use (bicyclists, joggers, walkers) route to run from downtown Norfolk thru ODU, thru our neighborhood, and beyond to the north; ultimately, east from downtown to connect to Virginia Beach's bike path system. Where possible, the trail is to be off-road, to avoid conflicts between bicyclists or other users and cars. The Trail concept and general route have been approved by Norfolk City Council.

Q. Has any of the Trail been constructed?

A. Yes. Two sections, in the vicinity of West Ghent, between Southampton Avenue in Atlantic City (near Fort Norfolk) and Orapax Avenue, and along Redgate Avenue from just west of the Orapax Restaurant to the Mallory Country Club, have been constructed and are open. Also, the Trail is marked and open along the waterfront between Harbor Park and Atlantic City using existing paths and, in some cases, streets; no new construction was required. Although, there will be some improvements in the future.

Q. What is the status of the Trail reaching Larchmont?

A. Planning is nearly complete for extending the trail from its current northern terminus at Mallory Country Club to Larchmont. It is hoped that, within the next year, construction will be underway on extending the Trail north via the western and northern boundary of the Weyanoke Nature Sanctuary, then through Jeff Robertson Park, to the Hampton Boulevard railroad underpass. From there, it is planned for the trail to run, off-road, west to Powhatan Avenue and 38th Street, up the west side of Powhatan Avenue (adjacent to Powhatan Field) to 43rd Street, then east along the north side of 43rd Street, then north through the heart of the ODU campus to the east side of Bluestone Avenue, and finally reaching Bolling Avenue, near the brick field.

Q. What will a trail in Larchmont consist of?

A. Larchmont does not have any usable public corridors running north-south other than streets. The Larchmont section of the Trail will be mostly a signed route posted on existing public streets; with its own

Recommended Route:

The route from south to north is Upper Brandon to Sussex Place, then Myrtle Park to Richmond Crescent, then Manchester Avenue to Richmond Place and then north to Lafayette River Bridge.



small distinctive sign showing a pelican with track shoes, similar to the green signs marking existing bike routes (except the Trail sign is smaller). From Birdsong Wetland north to the Lafayette River Bridge, a separate paved path for the Trail is envisioned.

Q. What traffic or parking changes will the Trail cause along its route?

A. None. The route through Larchmont (other than the Birdsong Wetland to Lafayette River Bridge segment) will just involve posting the sign along the route where there is a change in direction, or periodically placing a milepost indicating number of miles to Otter Berth downtown. Usage is expected to be light. Improved crosswalks and pedestrian traffic signals are envisioned for the Bolling, Magnolia and Lexan crossings of Hampton Boulevard, to allow those east of Hampton safer and easier access to the Trail. A brick-like imprint surface is envisioned for the Magnolia Avenue - Upper Brandon intersection to mark the trail and improve safety.

Q. When will the Trail be completed to and through Larchmont?

A. That is uncertain, but as discussed above, progress is accelerating and hopefully within the next few years, it will be possible to bike, walk or jog from the south end of Larchmont to Harbor Park and downtown via ODU, Powhatan Field, Jeff Robertson Park, the Weyanoke Nature Sanctuary, Mallory Country Club, the pines along Redgate Avenue, Orapax Restaurant, Plum Point Park, Fort Norfolk and the historic Freemason neighborhood on a continuous off-road paved path; great plus for the quality of life in our neighborhood.