

neighborhood

NEWS



Summer

Larchmont/Edgewater Community News

2004

Civic League Meeting: June 17 at 7:30 PM

President's Letter

Hello everyone! I hope your summer is off to a great start. We have several neighborhood issues as topics for our upcoming meeting.

First, we need to discuss the Elizabeth River Trail. We discussed this project at a meeting almost two years ago and created a committee to look into it. The City asked that we discuss and recommend a path through Larchmont and Edgewater streets. We have had a committee working on it and they will bring their recommendations to this meeting. Currently, the project is almost complete through Ghent. If my understanding of the project is correct, it will consist of some small signs and a bike path detailed on selected neighborhood streets. I look forward to seeing their presentation.

Second, we need to discuss a petition to create a children's playground/play area/park in the City property where Upper Brandon and Magnolia meet. Although I have not yet seen the

petition, I understand there are over 100 resident signatures in support of this area. The City has again asked the Civic League to make a recommendation on whether to place a playground/ play area/ park at that location. There are several factors to consider and I urge anyone with an interest in the project to attend the meeting and express their view.



Dave O'Dell

Last, the proposal for creating a **local historic district** in Larchmont/Edgewater is still in its formative stages. The Board has set aside the **Fall meeting** on September 19 to review and discuss the proposal prior to voting on whether to submit it to the City Council for approval. Please check the civic league website at www.larchmontedgewater.org for updates on the process and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

I look forward to seeing you on June 17th!

Dave

Neighborhood Watch

In the last four months there have been 5 burglaries to residences, 4 burglaries to nonresidences, 4 stolen vehicles, 19 cases of vandalism, and **68 larcenies**, 62 of which included autos or parts from autos!!! Most of the larcenies occurred in February and March and began in the area of the Bolling Square Apartments. Once the police began to target that area with increased police presence overnight and with undercover police cars, the thieves moved west toward Studeley Avenue. After being able to elude the police for over two months, the burglar was caught red-handed on March 26 carrying a bag of burglary tools. Things were calm for about a week, then someone took the captured thief's place and the larcenies to autos and parts from autos began again.

I cannot stress enough the necessity to **lock your cars!!!** Do **not** leave anything in the car that you wish to have the next morning! The thieves were taking complete stereo systems, new DVD systems, purses, laptop computers, money, clothing, anything not bolted down.

See Neighborhood Watch on back

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Larchmont/Edgewater Local Historic District

Myth: The City Codes will control our neighborhood growth, development, and the character of our neighborhood.

Fact: The City Codes will not control this. Under State enabling legislation the only method to have design review controls is through a local historic district. The Civic League approached the City regarding methods to protect the **architectural** quality of the neighborhood. Staff from the Department of Planning and Community Development made a presentation to the Civic League on State, National and Local Historic District Designations. At this point, the Civic League asked to pursue local designation so that there would be design review controls.

Myth: I don't want all the restrictions that are in other neighborhoods in Norfolk and have the historic designation restrictions such as Downtown, Ghent, or East Freemason.

Fact: The design guidelines for our historic district will be developed by our neighborhood.

Historic District, cont'd

Myth: Local Historic District won't protect this; it will just give the City one more way to control what we do in our neighborhood.

Fact: The planning commission and the Norfolk Design Review Committee, an advisory committee to the Planning Commission, are responsible for ensuring that all proposed development in our neighborhood is compatible in its appearance with existing development in our neighborhood, in accordance with the design guidelines that are adopted for the Larchmont/Edgewater Local Historic District. It would protect the look and feel of our neighborhood.

Myth: I won't be able to paint my

door purple if I want.

Fact: No local historic district in the City currently reviews paint colors. Minor alterations are frequently classified as maintenance so staff can issue the Certificate of Appropriateness.

Myth: I have to check with the city on ordinary home maintenance or repair.

Fact: No Certificate of Appropriateness would be required for ordinary maintenance or repair.

Myth: If I want to add on to my home or alter the porch, I have to go through all kinds of 'red tape' with the City.

Fact: You would submit an

application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to the staff at the Department of Planning and Community Development. The Design Review Committee and City Planning Commission would review the project for compliance with the adopted design guidelines for our historic district.

Neighborhood Watch, cont'd

Helpful hints: (besides sleeping in your car to protect it!): **Lock** the vehicle, park it under a light if possible, keep your porch light on, and pay attention to car alarms that go off in the middle of the night. If you see an unfamiliar car cruising the neighborhood between midnight and dawn or hear a car alarm, call the police immediately. Report any unusual activity, no matter how small you think it is. The police can only track a pattern if you report an incident. **Our cooperation is their greatest asset!**

Please go to our Civic League website to see all the crime statistics and the individual crimes. Summer is upon us and if crime is up this early in the year, the police are afraid it will be a tough summer. We all need to do our part to help keep the crime down in our neighborhood.

PACE Officer William Routon's phone #664-7226; cell # 621-6929

PACE Officer Hicks phone #664-7317

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*

Help Us Help You

During the course of the year, Civic League members may encounter situations (i.e., parking, noise, code enforcement, etc.) in which Civic League leadership assistance in resolving is desired. In order for the Civic League leaders to better serve you in these instances, individuals requesting such assistance should provide the Civic League officers with a brief written synopsis regarding the issue at hand (e.g., Who, What, When, and Where, etc.). This will allow us to more fully address the topics to the correct parties in an attempt to resolve.

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