



BELLAMY WOODS CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

April 2023

www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



May 6th Neighborhood Yard Sale: 8am – 1pm

Have someone else cherish (and buy) your surplus items at our neighborhood yard sale! No fees, no permits needed, and BWCL advertises on behalf of the whole community – just set up & sell!

Afterwards, CHKD will pick up unsold items you wish to donate. Please put such items at the end of your driveway with a sign marked “CHKD”. All items should be in good, resalable condition. CHKD does not accept major appliances or furniture.



June 4th Party-in-the-Park (PIP): 3pm – 6pm

Your favorite neighborhood event returns – but now in **June!** Kick off the summer with your neighbors! Bring a lawn chair, a dessert and enjoy great food, games, music! And, we are bringing back your favorite BWCL egg toss challenge too!



Free to all BWCL members! Renew/Join today!

Renew/join online and use PayPal for your membership dues

Or see page 4 for form to mail in your payment.

Non-members may attend for \$15 per person.

Rain date is June 11

4th of July Neighborhood Parade: 9am – 10am

Join us on the 4th of July for the community’s annual Independence Day parade! Show your patriotic spirit by wearing red, white and blue and decorating your bikes, scooters & wagons too! Meet up at Berrywood/Larkwood intersection, then walk, roll, ride & stroll together with your neighbors to the Park!



City of Virginia Beach

2023-24 Budget

Do you want to provide input on the City's 2023-24 budget? Are you concerned about what money is spent on, fees & real estate taxes, or the City Manager's proposed choices for cuts? **Your voice can be heard!** City Council is asking for your opinion, suggested changes and comments. There are a variety of options available to you – **but act quickly as the budget will be voted on in early May!**

- ❖ **Email comments** related to the budget and potential tax relief options directly to City Council at this special address: 24budget@PublicInput.com. All input will be collected & given to all members of Council.
- ❖ **Tax Reduction Simulation** - Understand the opportunity costs of various tax reduction levels. Choose your desired level of tax reduction and provide your input on what operating expenses should be cut to balance the budget. <https://viriniabeachva.abalancingact.com/tax-reduction-simulation>. If you hit "Save" at the end, your choices will be sent to City Council.
- ❖ **Residents can leave a voicemail** for City Council on the proposed budget and tax relief options. Call [855-925-2801](tel:855-925-2801) and enter Project Code 6739 when prompted. Your voicemail will be transcribed and shared with City Council.



Real Estate Appraisals – Susan Cunningham, Virginia Beach Real Estate Assessor and longtime BWCL resident, spoke at the BWCL general meeting held on April 4th at the Kempsville Rec Center. Susan stated that the Assessor's office has a staff of 35, of whom 22 are professional assessors. They have a huge workload, determining fair market value for 162,000 parcels annually as mandated by state law and city codes. This includes valuing all commercial buildings, hotels, industrial properties, farms, vacant land, as well as homes.

The assessment is done by looking at similar properties, analysis of data from many sources, and trying to get comparables from recent sales. 2023 assessments are based on 2022 sales. Assessments are at 100% of fair market value. The Real Estate Assessor works directly for City Council and is mandated to treat all people and properties equitably. You can contact the City if you think your assessment isn't correct.

City Council, **not the Assessor**, decides on the real estate tax rate to be applied to properties. The 2022-23 General Real Estate tax rate is 99 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Some areas of the City (not within BWCL's boundaries) have additional real estate tax surcharges to pay for extra services such as beach sand replenishment, or waterway dredging for residential boating channels.



Historic Kempsville Citizen's Advisory Committee (HK-CAC) - what is this HK-CAC? In 2006, City Council designated the area around the intersection of Princess Anne Road, Kempsville Road and Witchduck as a Historic District and adopted a master plan for its long-term appreciation & development. The HK-CAC was formed by nearby civic leagues, including BWCL, to advise and guide the City on carrying out that master plan.

Updates for Historic Kempsville area:

- ❖ In October 2022, the dedication of **Patriots Park** at 403 S Witchduck took place. Patriots Park is a small park across from the Fire Station, intended to teach visitors about the rich history of Kempsville. It includes a short, landscaped brick walkway, benches for enjoying a leisurely visit, and a grassy area. Did you know that John Ackiss, Virginia's very first fatality in the Revolutionary War, died after a skirmish with the British right there in 1775? Three interpretive signs along the walkway narrate some of the histories of the Kempsville port and crossroads village right up to the present day.
- ❖ The **525 Apartments**, previously the old Kempsville High School, will be doing a small expansion – adding 13 apartments on the far west end. HK-CAC supports this as less traffic-intensive than commercial use.
- ❖ The **Shoppes at Kemp's Landing** are under construction on the Northeast corner, including Starbucks, Yomi Hibachi and Sushi, another restaurant, and medical-related offices. Starbucks hopes to open by summer.
- ❖ A **kayak launch** will be built on the far side of the bridge near Lord Dunmore Drive and Kempsville Road, accessing the eastern branch of the Elizabeth River. The launch is 90% designed and will be built together with a new stormwater pump station on the site previously occupied by Arthur Treacher's.
- ❖ The City of Virginia Beach is working with the HK-CAC to create a **public artwork** highlighting Historic Kempsville. The artwork will be placed at the northeast corner of PA and Witchduck Roads.



BELLAMY WOODS CIVIC LEAGUE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
Spring 2023 through June 2024

Your \$35 annual dues support:

- ✓ Civic League newsletters & website (www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org)
- ✓ BWCL Events including: membership meetings, neighborhood yard sale, "Party in the Park" picnic, 4th of July parade & Halloween party
- ✓ Community Improvement projects
- ✓ Lighted entrance signage and flower bed maintenance

**Please join today either online at www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org or
by sending this form and your \$35 check to:**

Bellamy Woods Civic League
c/o Nan Zhang, Treasurer
4712 Berrywood Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Phone: 757-685-7282 Email: Treasurer@bellamywoodscivicleague.org

Name(s) of Resident(s): _____

Street Address: _____ Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Phone #: _____ Second Phone # _____

Owner or Renter? Possible Volunteer for: _____

Email address #1 _____

Email address #2 _____

Preference for newsletter delivery? Email link to website page _____ Hard copy _____ Both _____

Email addresses are not published but are used for sending BWCL crime alerts & newsletters to residents

VBPB Neighborhood Watch Participation: I agree to be alert to things happening on my street and neighborhood, and to call the Police non-emergency number (757-385-5000) if I suspect anything is out of the ordinary.

Yes _____ No _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Bellamy Woods Civic League thanks you for your participation!

TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Kempsville!
We're #1!
District 1, that is!



District 1 Town Hall Meeting

At Kempsville High School

A District 1 Town Hall meeting, hosted by District 1 City Council representative Rocky Holcomb, had a variety of speakers. This event was co-hosted by Jennifer Franklin, who represents District 1 on the Virginia Beach City Public School Board. Leaders from many City departments were there to speak & take questions too. Highlights include:

- ❖ Kempsville High School has 2000 students, the 2nd largest in the City. The Entrepreneurial Academy program at Kempsville High School had 570 applicants, the most of any Academy in Virginia Beach. The inaugural class had 24 students who received their Associate's Degree in business administration degree along with their high school diploma, at no additional cost to their families! There are 5 academies in schools throughout the City. All schools in VB are fully credited and have met or exceeded SOL tests. There are 85 schools in the City with over 65,000 students! *That's a whole lot of kids!*
- ❖ The Public Works City department handles recycling, waste management, City facilities, fleet services, bridges, roadways, traffic controls, beaches, waterways and storm water. This includes flood protection. Problems and service requests can be submitted on the VBWorks app or by calling 757-385-3111.
- ❖ Parks & Recreation – the city has 290 parks and 7 recreation centers. Parks & Rec is the largest childcare provider in the region. *Specifically in District 1, 6 park playgrounds were replaced, a new kayak launch will be installed near Lord Dunmore drive, the Violet Bank trail is under redesign taking into consideration stormwater management and reducing tree loss.* The Woodstock skatepark will be adding lighting to be open after dark.
- ❖ Chief of Police will be holding a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) April 27 at 7 PM at Kempsville Rec Center. Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month (except November & December) at 7 PM. This program was established to enhance the police department's ability to communicate with and better serve its community. The VBPD CACs are a collaborative partnership between the police and residents. Monthly meetings are open to all Virginia Beach residents.
- ❖ The 4th Precinct (Kempsville) Police Captain informed the group that larceny from vehicles is the most common crime in our district and 50% of the thefts come from **unlocked vehicles**. What is even more disturbing is that 1 out of 10 cars they steal from contain a gun, which may then be used in more serious crimes ... and encourage more thieves! *Please take 3 seconds to lock your car every day and take all valuables inside for the night!*
- ❖ The Fire Chief stated they handle 45,000 calls per year and 4100 are in District 1. There have been 9 working fires and 6 major incidents so far this year in District 1. VBFD works closely with EMS who handles 54,000 call/year with mostly volunteers. EMS also handles marine rescues and provides lifeguards at Sandbridge.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

If you offer babysitting, lawn care, pet care, tutoring or vacation help/plant sitting services, please contact Teresa Kraus at Secretary@bellamywoodscivicleague.org to be listed on our BWCL web site. Please provide name, phone # and any certifications you have. Listings are free of charge.

BWCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Email
President	Cat Watson	President@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
Vice President	Andy Fiebig	Vicepresident@bellamywoodscivileague.org
Treasurer	Nan Zhang	Treasurer@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
Secretary	Teresa Kraus	Secretary@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
At Large Director	Sue DeValdes	
Special Projects Director	Frank Gewet	
At Large Director	<u>*vacant (your name could be here!)</u>	

BWCL VOLUNTEERS

Events Coordinator	Raven Fiebig
Historic Kempsville CAC & VBCCO Rep	Walter Camp
Neighborhood Park Kiosk Postings	Nancy Luong
Website Administrator	Suzanne Pedigo

We have one open board seat. Please contact BWCL President Cat Watson at 757-652-1987 if you are interested in joining the BWCL board.

[Please visit our updated Bellamy Woods Civic League website at:](https://www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org)

<https://www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org>

or visit the Bellamy Woods Neighbor & Friends Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BellamyWoods>



OUR MISSION STATEMENT, SINCE 1987:

The purpose and object of the Bellamy Woods Civic League is to bring into organization the residents and property owners of the Bellamy Woods area; to promote good fellowship and citizenship; to encourage the interchange of ideas; and to further the best interests of this area in the City of Virginia Beach toward beautification, recreation, sanitation, and safety of the residents and the protection of their property investments.