

BELLAMY WOODS CIVIC LEAGUE

Spring 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org

2024 BWCL Events / Meeting Calendar



Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mar 30	2-3:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt* <i>(with Easter Bunny appearance)</i>	Bellamy Woods Park
Apr 10	7-8:30 pm	General Meeting	To Be Announced
May 18	8 am-12pm	Neighborhood Yard Sale	Your driveway!
June 9	3-6:00 pm	Party-in-the-Park**	Bellamy Woods Park
June 15	3-6:00 pm	PIP Rain Date**	
July 4	10:00 AM	4 th of July Parade	Berrywood & Worthington to Bellamy Woods Park
Oct 16	7-8:30 pm	General Meeting	To Be Announced
Oct 27	1-3:00 pm	Halloween Party**	Bellamy Woods Park

*New Event in 2024

**BWCL membership event



Open BWCL Board seats: Have an idea for fun events in our neighborhood? Have neighborhood concerns or want to get involved? There is a vacant at-large seat on the BWCL Board. And, Nan Zhang, who has served as BWCL Treasurer for many years, is retiring from the board. We are looking for someone with experience in the financial sector to join the Board as well. For either position, please contact Cat Watson at

President@bellamywoodscivicleague.org

You can make a difference in your neighborhood – please consider joining the BWCL Board!

BWCL Oct 2023 General Meeting on Oct 18, 2023 at Kempsville Middle School:

VB School Board Member for District 1, Jennifer Franklin, was the first guest speaker and provided an update on VB schools. She said there are 86 schools with 56,000 students in VB, and schools are the 3rd largest employer in the area. Ms. Franklin indicated that all but two VB high schools have academies, which awarded 1000 certifications last year. Students can obtain an associates college degree by graduating from an academy while in high school saving parents thousands of dollars toward a college degree. Look into applying if you have children in middle school. The Entrepreneurial Academy at Kempsville High School helped reverse the declining enrollment and is now the most popular academy in the City. On Kempsville Pitch Night, the students can pitch their ideas to local businesses like on “Shark Tank.”

Recycling: Kristi Rines, the City’s Recycling Coordinator, discussed the City’s recycling program and presented various options. VB citizens were being asked to participate in a survey about recycling because the current contract with TFC is ending in June 2024. As recently reported in the Virginian Pilot, 9,948 residents participated. 86.9% consider curbside recycling essential or important and are willing to pay more to keep the service. The city has requested proposals from vendors. To help keep costs down, please only put appropriate materials in the recycling bin as, currently, 44% of items placed in the blue bins are not recyclable and end up in the landfill.

Maury Hill, Chair of VB Clean Community Commission, whose mission is to promote a cleaner and more beautiful city and to ensure VB’s environmental vitality, noted they have two vacant position. He mentioned that Earth Day is on April 20 at Mt. Trashmore.

The membership approved joining the **Adopt-A-Park Program** to conduct regular clean-ups at the Bellamy Woods park.

The membership re-elected the following to the BWCL Board: Cat Watson, Andy Fiebig, Nan Zhang, Teresa Kraus, Sue DeValdes, and Frank Gewet. Officers will be elected at the next BWCL Board meeting by the Board per the bylaws. See page 1 for available Board positions.

Nan Zhang, BWCL Treasurer, presented the Treasurer’s report and the FY 24 budget. The budget was approved by the membership.

Violet Bank Right of Way – Ditch Maintenance and Sidewalk Project

The City of Virginia Beach held an Open House meeting on March 4, 2024, at Providence Elementary to provide information and seek input on two revised sidewalk designs and to make the public aware of plans for ditch maintenance, all in the Violet Bank right of way. *The following information was obtained from the City’s website:*

The proposed project area is from Selwood Drive to Kittery Drive. The purpose [of the sidewalk] is to improve mobility/connectivity for pedestrians by constructing a paved pedestrian route. The sidewalk will connect 6 isolated residential roads and will provide a safe pedestrian & bicycle alternative [to Providence Rd]. The project will also upgrade the existing drainage so that maintenance is easier while conveying a larger volume of water.

Project features:

- Installation of a 6’ or 8’ sidewalk from eastern end of Violet Bank Drive to Selwood Drive
- Installation of a 5’ concrete sidewalk from Kittery Drive to the eastern end of the Violet Bank Drive roadway
- Landscaping improvements along the Violet Bank Drive walk
- ADA compliant sidewalk ramps and painted crosswalks at each street crossing

The project was identified in the City’s Bikeways and Trails Plan (a component of the City’s Comprehensive Plan) in 2011. In late 2018, a VDOT TAP grant award was given and authorization to proceed was granted in 2019 for this accessible pedestrian connection project. The original design presented to the community during the virtual public meeting held during April and May 2022 detailed a 10’ shared use path that would accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. Even though 59% of respondents were in favor of the project as presented, there was considerable feedback regarding impacts to existing trees. As a result of public feedback received during the virtual public meeting, two alternative designs that result in fewer impacts to the Violet Bank Drive corridor were developed. Each of these reduced-width alternatives do not require the relocation of the existing ditch, resulting in no impacts to the south side of the ditch or vegetation growing on the southern ditch bank or further to the south. Future ditch maintenance will require the removal of all trees between the northern right-of-way line and the top of the southern ditch bank **regardless of the installation of the proposed sidewalk.**

The two alternatives are: construction of a 6’ wide or 8’ wide porous asphalt sidewalk. Installation of the proposed sidewalk will be located within the existing right-of-way. There are three impacted properties where temporary construction easements will be required during construction.

Information about the project is available online at <https://vmr.vhb.com/v/VvjMnIoeqIj>. Comments can be submitted online on the public hearing website **until March 18, 2024** by visiting link above or by email to the project manager, Greg Howell at ghowell@vbgov.com

Greater VB Community Information



Speak Up Virginia Beach! Make your voice heard! Bookmark the following link to participate in and see results of surveys & projects by the City of Virginia Beach. You can make a difference in our city!
<https://publicinput.com/virginiabeach>

VB Police Department 4th Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee meetings to updates residents about news, crime prevention, programs, etc. are held 4th Thursday of the month, January – October at 7:00pm at the 4th Precinct Police Station, 5132 Lobaugh Dr (behind the Kempsville Library). *All are welcome!*



Be in the Know and sign up for City of Virginia Beach email newsletter at:
<https://cloud.mc.virginiabeach.gov/ghbz32hbemp>

City's annual **Cherry blossom Festival** is March 23-30 at Red Wing Park. Activities include: Garden tours, Koto workshop, self-defense for beginners and more! <https://parks.virginiabeach.gov/events-information/special-events/cherry-blossom-festival>



BWCL Halloween Party on Oct 29, 2023



Over 150 residents, including costume-clad kids, parents and pets, attended the annual **BWCL Halloween Party on a beautiful fall day**. A great big **Thanks!** to the event's MC, BWCL Vice President Andy Fiebig, and his wife Raven who were instrumental in coordinating this successful neighborhood get together! Below are some pictures to enjoy from that fun day!





RECENT NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Address	Subdivision Name	Approx Year Built	Approx Sq Feet	Price List	Price Closed
1116 Birks Ln	BELLAMY MANOR ESTATE	1982	2,444	\$484,900	\$485,000
4665 Larkwood Dr	BELLAMY MANOR ESTATE	1980	2,398	\$549,900	\$549,000
4800 Berrywood Rd	BELLAMY WOODS	1989	2,824	\$462,000	\$475,000
1172 Brattleboro Arch	BELLAMY WOODS	1987	3,200	\$579,900	\$580,000
4604 Dorchester Ln	BELLAMY WOODS	1987	4,017	\$625,000	\$668,000
1220 Glen Lochen Dr	BELLAMY WOODS	1991	3,300	\$670,000	\$670,000
1202 Hartford Dr	BELLAMY WOODS	1987	2,513	\$510,000	\$510,000

Capitalizing on Favorable Conditions: Why Now Is a Good Time to Sell Your Home (Not that we want you to leave!)

If you are thinking about selling your home, there are several factors to consider including market conditions and your personal circumstances / financial goals. Timing also plays a crucial role in determining the success of your sale. Currently, several factors align to make it a good time to list your home.

One of the primary drivers of today's favorable selling conditions is robust demand. As mortgage rates come down, pent-up demand from millennials entering the housing market creates a surge in buyer activity. With a large pool of motivated buyers searching for homes, sellers have the advantage. Another factor contributing to the current seller's market is the limited inventory. This imbalance between supply and demand tilts the scales in favor of sellers, driving up prices.

Across many markets, home prices have experienced steady appreciation, providing sellers with equity and attractive returns on their investment. Changing Lifestyle Needs: The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted shifts in lifestyle preferences and housing priorities, influencing buyer behavior and preferences. With remote work becoming more prevalent and home becoming the focal point for daily activities, many buyers are seeking properties that accommodate their evolving lifestyle needs. Sellers can leverage this trend by highlighting features such as home offices, outdoor spaces, and flexible living areas that cater to today's lifestyle preferences.

In conclusion, the current market presents favorable conditions for sellers, with strong buyer demand, limited inventory, favorable pricing trends, lower mortgage rates, and shifting lifestyle needs. By capitalizing on these market dynamics and working with a knowledgeable real estate professional, sellers can maximize returns and achieve successful outcomes when selling their homes. Whether you're looking to downsize, upgrade, or relocate, now is an opportune time to sell your home and capitalize on the favorable conditions in today's market.

Home sales information and article above provided by Sue DeValdes



**BELLAMY WOODS CIVIC LEAGUE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
Spring 2024 through June 30, 2025**

Your \$35 annual dues support:

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

Please join or renew 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)	
Name(s) of Resident(s)	
Address	Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Phone #	Second Phone #
Owner or Renter? <i>(Circle one of above)</i>	Possible Volunteer for:
Email address #1	Email address #2

Email addresses are not published

The Bellamy Woods Civic League thanks you for your participation!

BWCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Cat Watson	President@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
Vice President	Andy Fiebig	Vicepresident@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
Treasurer	Nan Zhang*	Treasurer@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
Secretary	Teresa Kraus	Secretary@bellamywoodscivicleague.org
At Large Director	Sue DeValdes	
Special Projects Director	Frank Gewet	
Interim At-Large Director	vacant	

**Retiring*

BWCL VOLUNTEERS

Events Coordinator	Raven Fiebig
Historic Kempsville CAC & VBCCO Rep	Walter Camp
Neighborhood Park Kiosk Postings	Mel Watson
Website Administrator	Suzanne Pedigo
Newsletter Editor	Teresa Kraus

Please visit the Bellamy Woods Civic League website at:

<https://www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org>



and 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.