

BELLGRADE GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

August 2008



As part of the continuing effort to keep our neighborhood a safe and great place to live, there will be an attempt to have a periodic newsletter. Please send anything that you would like to see in the newsletter to: Arlene at

[BellgradeNL@hamptonva.net](mailto:bellgradenl@hamptonva.net)

This could include items of interest, ads for your businesses, and suggestions to make our neighborhood even better. Also, we would like to reach all of the residents so please let me know if there is anyone who is not receiving this and would like to do so.

Neighborhood Cleanup



Saturday, June 8th, Charles Sikes arranged our periodic neighborhood cleanup. He had picked up from the city the needed supplies (orange vests, gloves, trash bags, and grabbers) and led fellow neighbors to pick up trash along Middle Road. Thanks to all who were able to participate. Hopefully you'll note the difference and the need to do more and will be able to join us for the next ones:

- a. 3rd Qtr 13 Sep 08, 8 a.m.
- b. 4th Qtr 13 Dec 08, 8 a.m.

Highlights from the Neighborhood meeting on July 24th

Many of the neighbors (26) came to meet, hear the guest speakers, and receive updates from our Area Coordinator.

The first speaker was CPL Cooper of the Hampton Police Department who gave more details about the Neighborhood Watch (NW) program and informed us of the latest crime incidents in our area. There were none in our immediate neighborhood but there was a break in at the Falcon Creek Apartments and a robbery at Sonics off Magruder Boulevard.

The second speaker was Darren Robinson of the Hampton Neighborhood commission who informed us of the various services that are available to us. He also reminded us about some upcoming events; especially Semple Farm rezoning meetings and the National Night Out on August 5th from 5-7pm.

The third speaker was Ms. Carla Triggles who is the InSync Partnership manager for the Neighborhood Commission. She provided information about the types of grants for which our group might apply and hints for doing so. One possibility is to get a grant to have a neighborhood sign. Any such plans would need to be discussed with Ebenezer Baptist Church. Anyone with expertise in this area is asked to contact Lorie Henderson. Lorie suggested that we look into having a sign created like the one that Ebenezer Baptist Church has at its cemetery. You may call Carla at 727-6460 for more grant information.

The fourth speaker was Matthew Winder, a resident off Semple Farm between the Falcon Crest Apartments and the Ebenezer Baptist Cemetery. He urged all to attend any upcoming meetings dealing with the rezoning plans for Semple Farm Road. Note: the Planning Commission meeting on August 7th, deferred approval until the next meeting, September 4th to allow further research into previous deeds and zoning changes.

Lorie provided several updates:

There are still several areas in need of a block captain:

Gallaer, Grant Allen, Shetland, and 102-113 Clydesdale

If you are willing to take on one of these, please contact Lorie at bellgradewatch@hamptonva.net.

Ms. Selena Griffett, Senior Civil Engineer, VDOT project manager, informed Lorie that there are no updates at this time for the Commander Shephard Boulevard extension.

Kent Apple is in the process of contacting his neighbors for approval and hopes to have a whole neighborhood block party in the cul-de-sac of East Big Sky Drive some time in September.

The secretary at Ebenezer Baptist Church informed Lorie that plans are still underway to build a Childcare center on the lot across from the church..

Jackie Gunn informed us that the Salvation Army is in great need of non-perishables. They can be brought to their facility on Big Bethel Road.

Marilyn Leeper informed us that a Teen Center is planned at the old Sentara building on Butler Farm Road with an expected opening date of January 2009.

KEEPING UP TO DATE



Please visit our neighborhood webpage at <http://www.bellgrade.hamptonva.net/>. Our own Darryl Krauch has worked very hard to keep the site updated.

If you want to keep up with the latest of happening in Hampton go to enews@hampton.gov. Find out what cool things that are going on in our city.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lorie at bellgradewatch@hamptonva.net

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter: Paper copies will no longer be distributed by the Hampton Police Dept. Future newsletters can be viewed at www.hampton.gov/police.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Neighborhood Night Out - Saturday, Aug. 9th, 5-8pm at the Holiday Inn Conference Center.

DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED



We would all like to see our neighborhood grow into the best that it can be. We also know that such growth is not automatic. There is a lot of nurturing effort required. In addition there is a need to be aware of proposals affecting our neighborhood while there is still time to have an impact on the decision. Lorie Henderson, Chiros Sanders, and Arlene Guenther attended a meeting on August 6th highlighting the importance of having our district have a representative on the Hampton Neighborhood Commission. Hampton is divided into 10 districts. We are part of district is #2 and it is currently without a representative. This needs to be an individual who is actively involved in their community and can directly represent a neighborhood perspective based on experience with neighborhood organizations and community-based groups. Please give this some serious consideration. At the very least, please try to attend the next meeting about it. Be on the lookout for the date and more details. POC for more info is Rashida Costley, 727-6460.

BOO WILLIAMS SPORTPLEX



We are very fortunate to have a brand new year-round sport facility not too far from our neighborhood. There is a lot more going on there besides basketball. For instance you can walk an indoor track on weekdays from 6am to 1 pm. It is located on 5 Armistead Pointed Parkway. See <http://www.boowilliamssportsplex.com/> for more details.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ICE CREAM SOCIAL



August 5th our neighborhood participated in the National Night out by having our 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social on Middle Road. It was good to see many neighbors take the time to stop by, have some ice cream and meet and chat with neighbors. Larquis Sowell also volunteered to the Block Captain for Shetland Ct!!! Unfortunately it was also a time to notice how many people speed down Middle Road. Try to keep in mind the dangers of speeding in a residential area where there are children, bikers, walkers. The posted speed is 25 MPH.