

BELGRADE GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

August 2009



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:

BelgradeNL@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.

BELGRADE “BACK TO SCHOOL” NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY:



Plans are underway to have this event on Saturday, September 26th, in the parking lot of Ebenezer Baptist Church on the corner of Semple Farm Road and Middle Road. Setting up will begin at 6:00 pm with the party beginning at 6:30 pm. Each household is asked to bring their own chairs. A potluck style dish of food to share with neighbors would be welcomed but voluntary. Your block captain will coordinate who would like to bring what to be sure there is a variety of items. Alternately, feel free to visit our web site and sign up there directly (<http://www.bellgrade.hamptonva.net>). Note that being on church grounds, there will be no smoking or alcoholic beverages. Please mark your calendars and try to participate in this neighborhood event. It is an excellent chance to meet other residents and learn more about what is going on here.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES:

Verizon has had contractors marking all the utility lines in anticipation of bringing FIOS (Fiber Optic Service) to our neighborhood. It has been suggested that everyone take detailed photos of their yards, driveway, sidewalks, etc. in case there is any damage and a dispute about it comes up. Similarly save the placard from Verizon with the information and telephone numbers.

You've probably noticed the great progress on the new eight homes by Turzac Builders and the new sidewalks adjacent to them. We welcome Rob & Lori Norcross of Polly Court. All new neighbors will receive a welcome letter as they move in.

OUR WEB SITE:

Darryl Krauch has set up and is maintaining a web site: <http://www.bellgrade.hamptonva.net>. Please take some time to view it and see the latest neighborhood happenings. Also, Darryl has added the latest information with regards to the Commander Shepard Extension – check it out and stay informed.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP:



On Saturday, October 17th, there will be one of our periodic neighborhood cleanups. Charles Sikes will pick up from the city the needed supplies (orange vests, gloves, trash bags, and grabbers) and lead fellow neighbors in the clean up. As Charles states on the web site, “Although the average time to complete is about 28 to 47 minutes, for the three clean-ups listed below, we will be picking up trash as well as trimming, edging, and mowing the curb & right-of-way areas as needed. This might take a little bit more than the average time to complete. Please contact Charles Sikes at 865-7920 to volunteer for one of the positions for these clean-ups (positions being trash-picker-upper, bush & shrubbery trimmer-upper, sidewalk & curb edger-upper, and mower operator-upper). For the trash-picker-uppers, pick-up sticks, gloves, and trash bags will be provided. For the other volunteers, some equipment will be available but you are asked to provide your own equipment if possible.”

CRIME:

In talking with a relative in San Diego, it seems that out there anyone trying to collect money for salvage (e.g. pieces of copper, sprinkler heads, etc.) must show their driver's license, be finger printed, and wait two days before collecting the money. This has significantly curtailed home and construction theft. At the Ice Cream Social I suggested to Officer Walden that maybe Hampton could do the same. He said that he'll consider entering it as a legislation suggestion.

You've probably noticed the new neighborhood sign that will alert anyone coming into the neighborhood that we report **any** suspicious activity. Also if you have a neighborhood concern, that does not require immediate attention, you can E-mail Lorie at bellgradewatch@hamptonva.net. Otherwise, if it is an emergency, call 911.

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.

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

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter: Although hard copies of the newsletter will no longer be passed out by the Hampton Police Dept, some were handed out at the Ice Cream Social and will be available at the upcoming Block party on 26 Sep 09. Future newsletters can be viewed at www.hampton.gov/police.

BOO WILLIAMS SPORTPLEX:



We are very fortunate to have a 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 at specified times. It is located on 5 Armistead Pointed Parkway. See <http://www.boowilliamssportsplex.com> for more details.

HAMPTON TEEN CENTER:

Soon the conversion of the Sentara fitness center to a teen center will be complete. This is on 300 Butler Farm Road (just off Magruder Boulevard) near the golf course and walking track. An open house for all ages will be held this Saturday, August 15th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There will be tours and a membership drive for Hampton teens of high school age. Also an official opening for just teen is planned for Saturday, August 29th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This will have festivities, games, tours, and prizes. Go to www.hampton.gov for more info.