
Village Green Crier

December 2024

President Message

Volunteers. They are what make any small organization work. The Village Green Community Association is an entirely volunteer organization that was created to maintain the common areas of the neighborhood and to provide for social community. Unlike Homeowner's Associations, Community Associations are very different. They are not mandatory, and they rely heavily on both volunteer membership and volunteer labor.

Here in Village Green, we've had a long history of amazing volunteers who have offered their time and labor to help keep everything running smoothly. Although we have an elected board to oversee the VGCA, all members volunteer their time. Additionally, we have a number of unsung heroes who prefer to stay behind the scenes. You may have seen some out working, especially cutting the grass in the common area that we are required to maintain. Those large fields under the power lines for example, are used by Dominion Power, but we are required to keep them mowed and maintained. The same holds true for the median area coming into the neighborhood. We are required to maintain that area and others.

In recent years, willingness to volunteer time and money has dropped for many organizations, and the VGCA has not been an exception. With the new year just around the corner, please consider volunteering. You may even have some ideas that you can bring. If you can't volunteer your time, please, at least consider becoming a member of the VGCA, even at the lowest level. Every little bit helps in an organization that has no real income stream.

Check out <https://vgnn.org/join/> for details on how to join. We will be starting our 2025 membership drive in a few weeks. Please consider becoming a member and joining our team of wonderful volunteers.

What's Happening in the Green

VGCA Decor contest 2024

Sign up by December 17th. You **MUST** be a VGCA member to have your house judged. Some amazing kids will be by your place before the 24th to judge your house. Awards will be placed on your porch to display in your yard and picked back up in January.

Please provide name, address, and what category your house will be placed in to be judged. We will have first, second and third place for each category. Please contact Cheryl Lee or Audra Joyner if you have more questions. Please text 757-812-4964 to sign up. Category theme choices: colorful, inflatables, classic, over the top.



Treasurer Message

The Village Green Community Association operates as a 501(c)(7) Social Club. VGCA is operated by a volunteer board, we are responsible for maintenance of community property including our beautiful park and pathways.

VGCA is financially supported by annual membership dues; facility rental/usage fees, sponsorships, donations, investments, or other fundraising activities.

City Events & Festivals

December 8, 5:00 to 8:00pm, NlightN - Lights at the Fountain, City Center at Oyster Point. Recurring daily until 1st Jan.

December 14, 1:00 to 5:00pm Candyland Christmas Market, family friendly festivities @ Tradition Brewing Company

December 14, 4:00 to 8:00pm, 9th Annual Hilton Village Gingerbread Celebration and Parade.

Celebration in Lights, Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day. Newport News Park. 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

ARTech Lights at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center Nightly Light Show: Dec. 2 – Jan., 5 pm. – 9 p.m.

Winter Wonderland: The Coleman Collection, 12:00pm-8:00pm, Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center through Dec 29.

<https://www.visitnewportnews.com/events-and-festivals/holiday-events/>

What's on the Menu

Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies

Ingredients

1/2 cup vegetable shortening
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
3/4 cup granulated sugar, divided
1 large egg
2 Tbsp. whole milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 3/4 cups (about 7 1/2 oz.) all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
36 milk chocolate kisses

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Make cookie dough
3. Make cookie dough balls
4. Roll cookie dough balls in sugar
5. Arrange dough balls
6. Bake cookies, and add chocolate kisses

10 things to do in the garden in December

1. **Prune and trim** - if you have fruit trees, bushes, shrubs, or roses, now is the time to cut off dead branches and trim for shape.
2. **Clear the gutters** - after all the leaves have fallen from the trees, be sure to have your gutters cleared.
3. **Feed the birds** - birds can't rely on worms and fruits in the winter for food. Instead, they turn to seeds, and that's something you as their human neighbor can help them stock up on.
4. **Protect fragile plants** - spring-blooming shrubs such as azaleas and rhododendron, fragile blooms including dahlias, and citrus trees are some plants that could use an extra layer in the winter.
5. **Mulch with straw** - layer of straw as mulch protects the soil from temperature fluctuations, so that the ground stays frozen—and the plants dormant.
6. **Continue to compost** - decomposition slows down in winter, but there's no reason to stop composting.
7. **Remove snow** - brush the snow off tree branches, shrubs, and bushes; the added weight can bend and contort plants.
8. **Turn off sprinklers** - prevent frozen pipes, shut off the water supply to the sprinklers. Make sure to empty and store hoses so they don't crack from freezing temperatures.
9. **Order seeds**- seed catalogs start coming out in early winter—just in time for some prime armchair gardening.
10. **Prepare your tools** - take inventory of all your gardening tools. Replace or fix broken items, clean tools, and sharpen blades.

<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/>



VGCA Board Members

President: Glenn Woodell
Vice President: Stand Van Pelt II
Treasurer: Kelly Matteson
Secretary: Ashley O'Malley

Members can be contacted at:
board@vgnn.org