**LAKE SHORES CIVIC LEAGUE GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: March 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Shelton Park Elementary School.

Date of our next General Meeting is May 20, 2025.

**Our Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be to bring together for mutual benefit, those persons who are interested in civic betterment of any kind. It shall be operated along democratic lines, having no political affiliation, and being non-sectarian in the matter of religion

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, & Welcome**

President Diane called to order & welcomed all.

Diane invited us to join in the Pledge of Allegiance then introduced our guest speaker.

**Guest Speaker – Charron Valleroli, Master Gardener in Virginia Beach**

Charron provided hand outs for all to take.

TOP 10 SPRING GARDEN CHECKLIST

1. Know your USDA Gardening Zone: 8b = Va. Beach

Whether you are growing vegetables, herbs, or flowers, it is critical to know your growing zone.

In 2012 Virginia Beach was located in the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone 8a which has an annual extreme minimum temperature of 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

BUT the latest USDA map update in 2023 shows that temperatures are warmer than the last update in 2012.

This means half the country, including Virginia Beach & nearly every city in our Hampton Roads region has moved into a warmer climate zone from 8a to 8b representing a 5-degree difference in temperature.

Zone a (extreme minimum temp is 10 - 15 degrees F) is colder than

Zone b Virginia Beach (extreme minimum temp is now 15 – 20 deg F (5 deg warmer)

But, don’t worry, when choosing plants NOW, for Virginia Beach in zone 8b, it is OK to us plants we are used to planting, hardy to zones 8 and lower. Which means we don’t have to go out and buy all new plants.

But stay tuned, as the next time the map is updated, it could be a different story.

Our average Virginia Beach frost free growing season is March 20 to November 23.

1. Prepare your soil

Time to clean out garden beds from winter debris NOW!

Till the garden to loosen compacted soil and take soil samples from different areas of your gardens to test the PH levels, acidity, and nutrients it might need.

1. Test your soil – PH Level, Acidity, Nutrients

Soil testing is critical to determine best plant growth and prevent problems.

Well-draining, nutrient-rich soil is the key when planting a healthy and successful spring garden.

McDonald’s Garden Center on Independence Blvd. offers FREE soil testing or DIY Testing Kits are available at garden centers, retail stores, and AREC for a minimal cost.

Test results based on your results will list exactly what you need to do for your garden (compost, fertilizer, or other organic material based on your soil test results and the needs of your plants.

1. Good Soil is the Foundation of a Thriving Garden - Choose a good soil mix for your garden

Good soil is the foundation of a thriving garden.

A good starting point for mixing garden soil for vegetables is

60% topsoil provides base minerals and organic matter. Look for high quality, wood free, well-draining topsoil.

30% compost (organic matter/black kow fertilizer) adds essential nutrients and improves soil structure to promote healthy plant growth.

10% soilless growing mix (potting soil) enhances drainage and aeration, especially beneficial for raised beds, which can sometimes retain too much water.

Most vegetables grow best in slightly acidic to neutral soil PH (6.0 to 7.0)

If adjustments are needed to your soil you can ADD

LIME to raise PH or SULPHUR to lower PH if needed

1. What is the Best Fertilizer for Vegetable Gardens - Choose a complete fertilizer

What is the best fertilizer for vegetable gardens?

Most gardeners should use a complete fertilizer containing a balanced combination of all 3 primary plant nutrients for overall plant health and development:

(N) Nitrogen (P) Phosphorus and (K) Potassium

A good one would be 10-20-10 or 12-24-12

Apply fertilizer based on your soil test results and the needs of your plants.

1. Mulch your Garden

Mulching helps prevent unwanted weeds from germinating & locks in moisture to the soil. When choosing mulch, look for ground mulch (compost, wood chips, bark straw, & leaves, etc.)

It adds nutrients & improves soil structure, moisture retention.

1. Prune & Cut Back Plants

to manage plant size, encourage growth, & flowering. Be sure to deadhead, cut out for new growth.

1. Divide & Transplant Perennials

If you didn’t get to this in the fall, divide & replant perennials NOW. This promotes continued growing, helps expand your garden, & share it with lucky neighbors & gardening friends.

1. Plant, Water, Weed

Planting: Choose vegetables for your zone & growing season

Watering: Water regularly, especially during dry periods

Maintenance: Weed regularly, thin seedlings & plants

1. Take Care of Your Tools

Keep them clean & sharpened. Rinse after use.

“Truth is, plant diseases & bacteria are quick to spread & often spread from garden tools.”

Virginia Beach is in Zone 8b – More options for gardening.

Nowwe can add new plants.

March 20 to November 23 – frost free

Prepare your soil – Test for PH, acidity, & nutrients, especially for veggies

Do-it-yourself kits are available.

McDonald Garden Center will test for free.

AREC: Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center on Diamond Springs Road offers sample boxes for $10.00 in state, good for three years.

Mulching prevents unwanted weeds & for moisture retention

Prune & cut back plants – dig & replant, share plants

Spread out plants.

Keep tools clean & sharp, rinse after use to prevent spread of bacteria,

Clean tools yearly – sand down, use Rustoleum

Pine needles are high acidic, lime raises PH, sulphur lowers PH

Aerate – Virginia Beach has much clay/

Best time to water is morning early.

In evening – spores.

Soaker hoses water roots only.

Up pot plants.

Support Virginia Beach – Virginia Beach Master Gardeners Spring Plant sale at AREC on May 3 & 4.

Get great plants.

**Secretary Report**

Minutes: Secretary Jeanne Marie read portions of the minutes from our last meeting held on

February 11, 2025.

Diane moved to accept the minutes.

As no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. .

Communications: Jeanne Marie reported no new communications.

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Dodie read the Treasurer’s Report.

Account balance on 02/10/25 was $1927.50.

A $10.00 donation was made to put towards our new signs.

$40.00 in dues were collected at the February meeting.

No expenses were incurred in January or February.

Current balance is $1977.50 of which $324.00 is for our new signs.

$1977.50

- 324.00 sign fund

$1653.50 – remaining balance

Diane moved to accept the report.

As no additions or corrections, the report was approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)**

Second VP Dave:

150 civic leagues are in Virginia Beach.

About one half are in VBCCO.

The VBCCO takes issues to the City Manager.

Guest Speaker for the meeting on March 19:

City of Virginia Beach, Brandon Kyle, Operations Manager

Police Real Time Crime Center

“The **Virginia Beach Real Time Crime Center (RTCC)** is a state-of-the-art facility designed to help law enforcement **respond faster, solve crimes more efficiently, and keep our neighborhoods safer**.”

(from the VBCCO website)

**Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) – Third Precinct**

Trustee Rick:

CAC meets on the third Thursday of the month except July & December.

Guest speaker was from Crime Solvers – all volunteers.

Upcoming fundraiser: Pig Picking at Pungo Airfield on June 7.

To report crime: anonymous

Ninety-one cases were solved.

$350,000 in stolen goods were recovered in Virginia.

100 percent solve rate for homicides.

Crime is down in Virginia Beach.

Youth programs in Virginia Beach:

Public Safety Cadets open to ages 14 to 21.

Patrol Aide open to ages 18 to 21.

Captain Gordon gave a presentation on police gear & technology in police cars.

**Adopt a Street**

Coordinator Jack: We meet on Saturday, May 24, at 9:00 a.m. at the Pump House

on Jack Frost Road.

Wear long sleeves & gloves.

Jack has grabbers, bags, safety vests

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Lake Shores Signs**

President Diane:

Lake Shores applied for a Neighborhood Beautification Grant.

Send design ideas to Trustee Dodie.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dave: Along Northampton Blvd. pallets as wooden pavers for track vehicles.

Dominion Virginia Power is replacing aging lines along the railroad right of way to increase reliability.

Named the Burton Station Upgrade

Lake Shores is the first phase.

Visit dominionenergy.com

Low water pressure reported in Lake Shores.

Dave will investigate

Public Works is cleaning out the creek at the house with the pond as mitigation.

Diane asks us to suggest speakers for future meetings.

**ELECTIONS**

Second VP Craig:

Only members with dues paid can vote.

Current officers agreed to stay in office.

Craig asked for nominations from the floor.

Neighbors voted on the entire slate of current officers.

The motion was seconded.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Our next meeting is on May 20, 2025.

Diane asked for questions then moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded.

All agreed & the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeanne Marie Macdonald*, Secretary