

# Conjurer's Neck Winter Newsletter 2017

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## HOA President's Notes

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season. It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner! Please keep an eye on your neighbor's homes and any delivered packages. If you are going out of town during the holidays, please contact your block captain and let your neighbors know for your own safety.

**PROPERTY PRESENTATION:** Unfortunately, some homeowners are not complying with keeping their yards and home exteriors looking tidy and maintained. For example, we have asked homeowners to remove signs and keep their back yards free from junk and equipment. Bushes and shrubs also need to be pruned and kept tidy!

Dead leaves can be swept on to the street and will be removed by the city from now until January 15Th. The leaves will need to be removed before our Christmas Eve Illumination event. We will send out an email reminder with the date the city will be removing our leaves from the curb.

Dead Trees: Recently, we had an incident of a dead tree that fell across the easement onto the public street, creating a safety hazard. Please note that it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove dead trees from their property, including trees which fall from their property. Dead trees do not require prior permission or an ACC form for removal; however, a courtesy call or an email is much appreciated.

**RESISTANT HOMEOWNERS:** Your HOA Board of Directors has contacted a local attorney who will begin legal procedures for homeowners who have blatantly failed to comply with our covenants and ordinances. We still have boats with trailers that must parked in a garage only and a homeowner who still refuses to comply with our updated mailbox and post requirement. As a reminder, these are the steps when in violation:

- 1) Homeowner will be notified in writing of his/her covenant violation and given a time frame in which to correct the violation.
- 2) If the violation is not rectified within the specified time frame, the homeowner will be charged with a fine.
- 3) If the homeowner refuses to correct the violation and/or pay the fine, our HOA attorney will begin correspondence and collection procedures to enforce the covenants.

The Old Brick House Foundation (OBHF) The OBHF has requested for a member of the HOA Board join the OBHF to keep abreast of their agenda and activities. I have accepted the appointment to become a member of the OBHF and to represent the HOA. They had a successful open house fundraiser at the Old Brick House on December 2nd from 10-3. Then on the same evening, they held a

cocktail party for the homeowners from 7-9 which was very nice and well attended. Congratulations to the OBHF!

**ACC Update:** We have 2 homes currently under construction and 1 will break ground in the Spring. Please remember that ANY kind of extension (deck, porch, etc.), replacements, exterior paint color changes (shutters, doors, etc.) all require prior approval and permission. Forms and fees are available on our website ([www.conjurersneck.com](http://www.conjurersneck.com)) and the ACC architectural committee will do their best to expedite any request and make this process as simple as possible.

**Fiscal Year 2015-2016:** The fiscal year 2015/16 audit was conducted and I am happy and proud the HOA Treasurer had no issues and all assets were accounted for. Congratulations to Bobbie Fauber and thank you for all you do.

**Halloween 2017:** I walked the entire neighborhood from 6:30-9:00 p.m. on Halloween night and counted over 100 homes that did not participate. Halloween has gotten out of hand and will be discussing with the city several requests to help alleviate this situations. I am requesting on Halloween night, that we are given a 15mph speed limit from 6:00-9:00 pm and possibly a time frame of 6:00-8:00 p.m. Furthermore, there should be an advertisement and enforcement of an age limit for trick or treaters of 12 years and under only.

Please enjoy the holidays and I look forward to seeing you at our annual Christmas Eve Illumination event on December 24. For more information on this event, please see the newsletter below or check our website.

Sincerely,

Robert M. "Bob" Conklin  
HOA President

## Upcoming Events

**DECEMBER 24:** Christmas Eve Illumination

### Christmas Eve Illumination

Each year on Christmas Eve, Conjurer's Neck is transformed into a winter wonderland with a beautiful display of luminaries lining our streets. The entire subdivision will be illuminated, starting at the main entrance. This is one of our signature annual events and a tradition enjoyed by many homeowners and visitors. However, in order to provide a spectacular illumination, we need volunteers to help prepare for this special event.

**If you are available on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, we need your help!**

- Please report to the Old Brick House at 1:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24) to help prepare and distribute the luminaries.
- Bring your family to the Old Brick House for a few hours of fun and fellowship with your neighbors. Hot cocoa and light refreshments will be provided!
- Bring your pick-up truck to help distribute the luminaries (Note: children must be 10 years or older to ride in the bed of a pick-up truck).
- ANY and ALL help is greatly needed and appreciated!

**ALL HOMEOWNERS:**

- Light your luminaries at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24).
- Help your neighbors by lighting their luminaries if they are unable to or not at home.
- Light any luminaries in your area that may not be lit (near vacant lots, front entrance, etc.).

- Pick up and dispose of the luminaries in your area on Christmas day (Monday, December 25).

In the event of inclement weather, the illumination will be rescheduled for New Year's Eve (Sunday, December 31). You will receive an email notice from [ConjurersNeck@gmail.com](mailto:ConjurersNeck@gmail.com) if this occurs.

## **Keep it Clean!**

We continue to have folks who litter. The authorities have been notified and will be waiting to catch who it is!

## **Social Membership Misrepresentation**

There has been some confusion over a company soliciting a social membership website/forum for our community. Please be aware that we have no affiliation with this and do not enforce it. The Conjuror's Neck HOA is its own entity required by the covenants and by laws and is maintained accordingly. Please don't be fooled into joining something we have nothing to do with. If you have any questions, please email or call one of your board members. At this time, Conjuror's Neck has one official website ([www.ConjurersNeck.com](http://www.ConjurersNeck.com)), one official Facebook page (Conjuror's Neck Subdivision Colonial Heights Virginia), and one official email account ([ConjurersNeck@gmail.com](mailto:ConjurersNeck@gmail.com)).

## **A Note from our Event Coordinator & Social Media Advisor**

Your HOA board has been busy keeping YOUR neighborhood secure with the implementation of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Please become involved for it takes participation from everyone to keep it safe and we all need to be watching out for each other. "If it doesn't look right, report it"...

With the Christmas season upon us, we have neighbors who are fully embracing it with decorations galore. This has produced an increase in vehicle traffic throughout the neighborhood in the evenings. Please be patient with the vehicles that may be stopping for there are probably little ones that are in awe of the decorations and lights.

We wish to THANK the Old Brick house Foundation for a wonderful Holiday gathering they hosted for the CN Homeowners on December 2nd. The food, decorations, and the warm hospitality made for a great kick off to the Holiday Season. Pictures can be seen on the Conjuror's Neck FB page.

As we make preparations for the incoming year, We need ideas for family fun events. What would you like to see your HOA sponsor?

On Saturday, March 24th, 2018 the HOA will be hosting an Easter Celebration which will consist of visits and pictures with the Easter Bunny, Games, and an Easter Egg Hunt. This will be open to all children in your families. Please contact me direct if you wish to volunteer, have questions, or have additional ideas to make this a successful event for the kiddos and adults as well.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Regards,  
Rita Feasenmyer

## Old Brick House Foundation (OBFH)

### Old Brick House Foundation Completes Gravestone Project

**COLONIAL HEIGHTS, Va., Dec. 6** — The nonprofit Old Brick House Foundation (OBHF) has completed the final phase of its gravestone project, according to foundation board member and project chairwoman JoAn Jones.

The three historic gravestones at the center of the initiative lie adjacent to the Old Brick House, which is located on Conjuror's Neck and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Though the stones no longer mark actual burial sites, the one memorializing young Richard Kennon (1684–1688), son of Richard and Elizabeth Kennon, is believed to be among the oldest in Chesterfield County. The other stones once marked the graves of Henry Isham Kennon (1718–1747) and Angelina Vaughan (1826 – 1848). The purpose of the OBHF project was to reposition the stones closer to the house, raise them on plinths to protect them from mowing equipment, and create a memorial garden to showcase them.

"It was a long time coming, and a fulfillment of a vision that past president Jim O'Connell and I had from the time the OBHF was incorporated as a nonprofit," Jones said. "We felt that these stones were as much a part of the past history of the Kennon family and as important to save as the Old Brick House itself."

The approximately \$5,000 project, which was overseen by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and funded by donations, began with a matching donation of \$1,000 from the Colonial Heights Historical Society in September, 2016. Other donations came from Kennon descendants or relatives, the Violet Bank Garden Club, and neighbors and friends of the Old Brick House.

Phase 1 of the project involved verification by archaeologist Christopher Stevenson that no human remains were buried under the stones. Then came the actual relocation of the stones by Bill Delk of Pembroke Granite in Petersburg. Plaques with the gravestone inscriptions were also added, since the original inscriptions on two of the stones are largely illegible.

During Phase 2, Bob Conklin laid the brickwork for a memorial garden surrounding the gravestones, with plantings done by Keith Ange Landscapes. Included were six low-growing gardenias and two *Pieris japonica* shrubs, as well as boxwoods from Living History Growers.

The latter were propagated from cuttings of boxwoods at such historic Virginia locations as Shirley Plantation, Agecroft Hall, James Madison's Montpelier and Patrick Henry's Red Hill.

Two teak benches in the Chippendale style complete the memorial garden, encouraging visitors to sit, reflect and enjoy their surroundings, which include a commanding view of the Appomattox River.

Also new to the site is an interpretive panel describing types of early grave markers common to this part of Virginia.

For more information, visit [oldbrickhouse.org](http://oldbrickhouse.org).

## Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain Notes from CHPD

With the holidays right around the corner, the Colonial Heights Police Department would like to take a moment to remind everyone about a few Holiday Crime Prevention Tips to make your season festive and bright!

During the holidays, the potential for thefts and robberies increase. More people are out and about, and they are carrying more gifts and money than during other times of the year. While there's no need to be afraid, you should keep in mind the following holiday safety reminders no matter where you are.

- Carry your valuables wisely. DO not keep cash in your wallet. Instead, keep it in an inside pocket and only carry the credit cards you'll need.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. If you must leave packages in your car, put them in the trunk. Keep receipts with you and always, LOCK YOUR DOORS..
- Never leave firearms unsecured inside of your vehicle.
- Carry a cell phone with you. If someone makes you suspicious or uncomfortable, notify security or call the police.
- Whenever possible, park and walk in well-lit areas. Be aware of your surroundings, especially the people around you. If possible, shop with a friend or at a minimum, let friends and family know where you are and when to expect you to return.
- Carry your purse close to you, with the opening or flap towards your body. Never leave a purse unattended on a shopping cart.
- Do not keep a wallet, credit cards or cash in a backpack. If you are in a crowd, consider carrying the backpack in front of you. Pickpockets can quickly and easily remove items from a backpack without being noticed by the owner.
- Protect your credit card numbers and other personal information. Carefully dispose of receipts that have a credit card number on them. Never provide credit card information in response to unsolicited calls or emails.
- If you are traveling for the holidays, make your home look "lived in." Have a friend or neighbor collect your mail and newspapers or have your service suspended while you are away. Use timers to turn lights off and on. Also don't announce your upcoming holiday travel plans, including the dates you will be out of town on social media.

*The Colonial Heights Police would like to extend our sincerest wishes to you and your family this Holiday season!*

Scott Whirley  
Law Enforcement Services Division  
Accreditation/Crime Prevention  
Colonial Heights Police Department

## **Fire Pits**

Many homeowners have burning permits and fire pit facilities on their property. As a reminder, it is ok to burn as long as you have a city-issued permit and an appropriately built fire pit (click here to view city codes on fire permits). It is understandable to call the fire department if you suspect a destructive fire or hazard, but first please be sure the fire is not coming from a fire pit safely burning.

## **Coyote Complaints**

We've had sightings of a coyote in the community and affiliated with the park. Coyotes are infamous for eating anything, small animals are not a challenge, they can jump a fence very easily.

Call CH Animal Control if you see a Coyote (804) 520-9397 or CHPD 804-530-9300 (non-emergency).

## Additional Notes

- ◆ Please visit [www.ConjurersNeck.com](http://www.ConjurersNeck.com) to update your email and other information.
- ◆ ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS RENTING OUT HOMES: Homeowners MUST provide Conjurer's Neck HOA Board with their current address / phone / contact information if renting out their Conjurer's Neck home. In addition, Conjurer's Neck Homeowners must also let us know any time there is a change regarding the rental. You can email us at [ConjurersNeck@gmail.com](mailto:ConjurersNeck@gmail.com)
- ◆
- ◆ If you do not have access to a computer and would like a printed copy of our Newsletter (and any other important notifications) which is typically sent by email, please give your name, address and phone number to a Board Member so we can keep you up to date.
- ◆
- ◆ Before you prepare to make any changes to your home and/or property, you must contact the HOA.
- ◆
- ◆ If you notice any unusual activity within the community (tree removal, construction, etc.) or on a specific Homeowner's property, do not hesitate to contact a Board member or email [ConjurersNeck@gmail.com](mailto:ConjurersNeck@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns (your name will remain anonymous).
- ◆
- ◆ If you have any questions about our covenants or are unsure if you need Board approval for a specific project, please contact a Board member or [ConjurersNeck@gmail.com](mailto:ConjurersNeck@gmail.com)
- ◆
- ◆ Remember: "If in doubt, we'll check it out!"

## Conjurer's Neck Homeowners' Association's Elected Board of Directors and Board Elected Officers

Members of the Board are elected to a three year term by the homeowners present at the annual Homeowners Association meeting held in the Fall of each year. Ten percent of all lot owners must be present (in our case that means 18 lots represented) and no proxies are allowed per the by-laws of the Association. That's why it is important to make an effort to be present when you hear there is an annual meeting scheduled. Notice of the meeting is usually included on your annual maintenance dues invoice.

Officers of the Association are elected by the members of the Board and serve at the pleasure of the Board for a one year term. Officers are usually elected at the first Board meeting of each new Association year (generally at the October Board meeting).

POSITION	NAME	TERM ON BOARD
PRESIDENT (grounds, security, ACC)	Robert "Bob" M. Conklin	Oct. 1, 2013 - Sept. 30, 2019
VICE PRESIDENT	Cindy Latham	Oct. 1, 2014 - Sept. 30, 2017
TREASURER	Bobbie Fauber	Oct. 1, 2012 - Sept. 30, 2018
SECRETARY	Pauline Loftis	Oct. 1, 2011 - Sept. 30, 2019
SOCIAL & WELCOMING	Lewis Fauber	Oct. 1, 2013 - Sept. 30, 2019
SPECIAL BOARD MEMBER/ CONSULTANT	Larry Davis	Oct. 1, 2014 - TBA
EVENT COORDINATOR & SOCIAL MEDIA ADVISOR	Rita Feasenmeyer	Jan. 25, 2017 - TBA
TRUSTEES	JoAnn Jones Jim O'Connell Chuck Wilusz	