



The

# BIRCHWOOD HERALD

BIRCHWOOD GARDENS ◊ BIRCHWOOD SOUTH ◊ BIRCHWOOD CEDAR

[www.birchwoodcl.org](http://www.birchwoodcl.org)

Fall 2011

## First BCL Scholarship Awarded



Georgia McKown, Birchwood South resident and 2011 graduate of Princess Anne High School was awarded the first Craig Tyrrell Memorial Scholarship. Georgia is currently a freshman at Old Dominion University pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. Georgia was selected for her demonstrated leadership and community service as well as her academic achievement.

The Civic League started raising money for this scholarship soon after the Civic League was reactivated back in 2005. The scholarship was later named in honor of Craig Tyrrell, long-time civic league president and resident of Birchwood Gardens.

The scholarship fund has grown over the years through donations, fund-raisers and donations from the residents of Birchwood. This year, funds were sufficient to award its first recipient.

## Civic League Transitioning

Doug Daughtry, outgoing President

The Birchwood Civic League is transitioning. As we shared at our September meeting, our President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary are stepping down after eight years of service.

During our November meeting, we will be voting on a new Executive Board. Additionally, we will be voting on re-assigning the remaining scholarship funds (about \$1000) to the civic league's general operating fund (currently about \$600)

For the past several years, incoming funds from dues, donations or advertisers has significantly dwindled to the point of having to make some fiscal changes so as to remain solvent. We have decided to no longer print our bi-annual newsletter as each edition cost about \$250 to produce. Depending on how things go, we may not be renewing our website [www.birchwoodcl.org](http://www.birchwoodcl.org).

Is the Birchwood Civic League important to you? If so, we need to hear from you and we need your help in keeping our organization moving forward. We want to maintain neighborhood safety and keep Birchwood a great neighborhood here in the middle of Virginia Beach.

While other faces will replace some of the familiar ones, our goals remain the same — to help us all stay connected and keep our neighborhood safe by looking out for our neighbors, as well as facilitating communication with our elected officials and city government,

If this is of value to you, please come out November 15 and show your support.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you and we look forward to seeing you November 15th at 7:00 at the Malibu ES library.

## Birchwood-Malibu Park Dedication a Success

On May 21st, the Birchwood Civic League sponsored a park dedication as an opportunity for neighbors to celebrate the renovation of the Birchwood Malibu Park on Royal Palm Arch.

The park renovation was completed by the city as part of a program that is updating and improving several neighborhood parks like ours. In addition to a new and bigger playground structure, improvements included the building of a covered picnic area and a new sidewalk that connects the Harton Road entrance to the entrance on Royal Palm Arch.

Long time residents will remember when the park was the Birchwood Treatment Plant as part of the Kempsville Sewer Treatment district. Thankfully, the plant was closed and demolished and the city purchased the land in 1982. A Birchwood-Malibu task force was commissioned in 1984 and worked on plans to develop the property as a neighborhood park.

In 1986 some wooden play structures were constructed and soon after, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries stocked the lake with blue gill and red eared sunfish, bass, crappie, and catfish. In 1993, a new plastic playground structure replaced the wooden ones and the tennis courts were built.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset. Come check it out.

### Special Thanks to our sponsors of the Park Dedication:



<b>\$35</b> formal updo expires: 12/31/11  FOH028M Not valid with any other offers. Limit one coupon per customer. At participating salons.	<b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> haircut expires: 12/31/11  FOH028N Not valid with any other offers. Limit one coupon per customer. At participating salons.
<b>Great Clips®</b> COLUMBUS VILLAGE across from Princess Anne High School	

## Sewer Line Projects Completed

Phase I and Phase II of the sewer replacement project for Birchwood Gardens have been completed. All of the aged and sometimes improperly sized or sloped pipes have been replaced.

The project started the end of 2008 and was done in two phases by two separate contractors. Although inconvenient at times having to drive through half-paved streets, it will prove to be well worth it.

New pipes that are properly sized and sloped will reduce the chance of a back-up into your home; no one wants that. Another benefit is that now every home has a sanitary sewer clean out; several homes in the sub-division did not have them to begin with. The clean outs will make it easier to treat any possible stoppage between your house and the main line. Another benefit is that when the time comes to replace your sewer line (and with the age of the homes in Birchwood Gardens that time is soon), you will only have to replace up to the clean out and not have the added expense of having your line tied into the main line nor the digging up and repaving the road required to do so.



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## Tips to Avoid Identity Theft and Telemarketing Fraud

According to the Virginia Beach Consumer Affairs Program, one of the best ways to protect yourself from identity theft and telemarketing fraud is to stop businesses and charities from selling your name and suggest you do the following:

- ◆ Don't play direct mail sweepstakes
- ◆ Register with the National Do Not Call Registry at [www.ftc.gov/donotcall](http://www.ftc.gov/donotcall) or by calling 1-888-382-1222
- ◆ Call the customer service numbers for your credit cards and ask to "OPT OUT" of marketing programs, to include convenience checks.

For additional information, contact the Virginia Beach Office of the Commonwealth Attorney Consumer Affairs Program at 385-6373

Everyone must once again renew their commitment to Neighborhood Watch in order to keep our Neighborhood Watch signs posted. Becoming a member of the Civic League automatically satisfies the requirement. However, if you decide not to become a member, please at least register by mailing in the form below OR sending an email to [register@birchwoodcl.org](mailto:register@birchwoodcl.org) with your name and address. By registering, you help save us from having to call or visit you to confirm your commitment.



**President**  
Doug Daughtry 498-8087  
632 Robens Road  
[pres@birchwoodcl.org](mailto:pres@birchwoodcl.org)

**Vice-President**  
Christy DeZwaan 636-9867  
636 Robens Road  
[vp@birchwoodcl.org](mailto:vp@birchwoodcl.org)

**Recording Secretary**  
Leslie Martin 340-7935  
545 Harton Circle  
[recsec@birchwoodcl.org](mailto:recsec@birchwoodcl.org)

**Treasurer**  
Karen Lamb 340-3242  
612 Caren Drive  
[treasurer@birchwoodcl.org](mailto:treasurer@birchwoodcl.org)

**Corresponding Secretary**  
John Martin 340-7935  
545 Harton Circle  
[corsec@birchwoodcl.org](mailto:corsec@birchwoodcl.org)

### 2011-2012 Birchwood Household Registration/Membership Application

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to register with the BCL only.

I/We would like to become members of the BCL for 2012. Annual dues are \$15 per household.

Membership allows you to have a "voice" in the Civic League through agenda input and voting.

Only members can vote on issues being considered by the Civic League.

By registering your household or by joining the Birchwood Civic League, you are also agreeing to support and participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program which simply means you agree to keep your eyes and ears open and be willing to call Police should you see anything suspicious.

Make checks payable to: **Birchwood Civic League**

Bring to a meeting or mail to: Birchwood Civic League  
545 Harton Circle  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452