



# Thoroughly Good News



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## Upcoming Dates

**SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Thursday, August 22nd, 6:30 PM

**FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Thursday, October 17, 6:30 PM

Special Guests, Monty Ashliman and Sharon Felton, Candidates for School Board At Large.

Join us at Bayside Presbyterian at 6:30 PM for refreshments. Meetings begin at 7 PM.



*Thoroughgood came out in full force to celebrate the 4th of July at the annual Bike Parade and Neighborhood Party! Read all about it on Page 4.*



*Nancy Pouliquen and her pups enjoyed the festivities!*



*Representatives of Cub Scout Pack 364, led by Rusty Kratochvil (back left) and Jay Berry (back right) kicked off the events with the Pledge of Allegiance.*



# A Note from the President

A HUGE thank you to all of you neighbors who contributed to a successful and smooth 4th of July celebration this year! We could not have done it without you! We love our country and the history of our neighborhood, and this event is the highlight of the year.

We loved seeing all of you there spending time with neighbors, enjoying the live music, dunking booth, snow cones and face painting together!

We received lots of good feedback on the event as a whole and some ways we could make it even better next year. Thank you to Cory Stenger and team for delivering entry tickets to the members who prepaid dues, giving them access to our "Fast Pass" gate. This made the entry process a lot smoother and will definitely be repeated at future Civic League events.



*Board members Jonathan Goldman, Cory Stenger, Emily Chebetar, Christina Caro, and Don Dasher on the 4th of July.*

If you are interested in brainstorming or joining the committee in charge of planning and procuring entertainment for future membership events, please reach out to us at [members.tcl@gmail.com](mailto:members.tcl@gmail.com), and we will be sure to keep you in the loop! In addition, our other committees are always looking for more volunteers, so please contact them if you're willing to help. We will find a place for you!

As of the 4th of July, Thoroughgood is now recognized as a Pearl Neighborhood by Lynnhaven River Now. We look forward to adding more and more homes as "Pearl Homes" in our community! For more information on what being a Pearl Home means, please check out the LRNow website at [www.lynnhavenrivernow.org](http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org).

We hope that you will join us for our summer membership meeting on August 22nd at Bayside Presbyterian Church. Reception and refreshments begin at 6:30 PM, the meeting begins at 7 PM and is open to all. You can also become a member or renew your membership at this meeting!

Also, save the date for our fall membership meeting on October 17th, where we will hear from both At-Large Virginia Beach City Public School Board Candidates, Monty Ashliman and Sharon Felton. Follow us on Facebook for more details on the candidates and the format of this discussion the meeting approaches, along with lots of other neighborhood updates. Make sure you don't miss anything! On Facebook, under Groups, search "Thoroughgood Civic League" and request to join. Membership is limited to homeowners and residents of Thoroughgood.

Thanks again for being part of what makes this neighborhood great! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

*Jonathan*

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### General Questions:

[members.tcl@gmail.com](mailto:members.tcl@gmail.com)

### Neighborhood Watch:

Cory Stenger

[corstenger99@gmail.com](mailto:corstenger99@gmail.com)

### By-Laws Committee:

Emily Rudiger

[emilyrudiger12@gmail.com](mailto:emilyrudiger12@gmail.com)

### Newsletter:

Christina Caro

[newsletters.tcl@gmail.com](mailto:newsletters.tcl@gmail.com)

## Civic League Contacts

President:	Jonathan Goldman jgoldmanvb@gmail.com
Vice President:	Emily Chebetar members.tcl@gmail.com
Finance:	Roger Pence treasurer1.tcl@gmail.com
Newsletter:	Christina Caro newsletters.tcl@gmail.com
Historian & By-Laws Committee:	Emily Rudiger emilyrudiger12@gmail.com
Recording Secretary:	Don Dasher
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Cory Stenger
Advertising:	Kathleen Sharp advertising.tcl@gmail.com
Membership:	Amy Jones & Kathleen Sharp members.tcl@gmail.com

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# A Very 'Good Fourth

By Jesse Carey

The annual 4th of July Bike Parade drew families from around the neighborhood, with hundreds staying after for live music, food, and games at a massive party thrown by the Thoroughgood Civic League. Every year, Thoroughgood residents decorate their bikes with patriotic adornments and meet in front of the Thoroughgood House. Cub Scout Pack 364 leads the group in The Pledge of Allegiance before the mass of neighbors rides the loop of Country Club Circle.

"The first year we came was more golf-cart oriented, but it's switched over to bikes, which we all love," said Leo Castellanos, who has lived in the neighborhood with his family for four years and has been attending the parade ever since. "Watching everyone grow as a neighborhood is pretty sweet."



Angie Cooper shared fond memories of joining the parade after moving to Thoroughgood with her family five years ago. "When we moved here from Kempsville, we were so excited about all of the neighborhood things that they do over here that they never did in our old neighborhood," she said. "The first thing we did was the 4th of July Bike Parade, and we thought, 'Oh my gosh! We get to do a parade. This is awesome!'"



Steve Clark said his family had a great time, despite having to stop and service one of the kid's bikes. For the Clark family, getting up early on the 4th of July to decorate their bikes and "pump up the tires" has become a tradition. "Sometimes they go flat," he said. "That's OK. We worked through it."

Despite the occasional flat tire, the parade and party have become a summer staple of Thoroughgood life, with Country Club Circle residents lining the route, waving to riders as they make their way back to Thoroughgood House. Thankfully though, that's one part of the tradition that isn't reserved for the 4th. "Whenever you drive or walk anywhere, everyone waves," Angie Cooper said. "Everyone waves. And that is very rare."



The neighborhood party this year featured a cornhole tournament, raffle, face painting, a barbecue lunch, ice cream and snow cones. The dunk tank was a

particular favorite of on a hot day, with kids lining up repeatedly to get dunked, but it also featured the good-natured dunking of our resident City Council Representative Joash Schulman and our Civic League President Jonathan Goldman.



The live music also seemed to be a favorite of neighbors of all ages. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to plan and facilitate the event, and thanks to all who came!





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# Camp Thoroughgood

By Christina Caro

Summer is always an exciting time for children, and this year Thoroughgood kids didn't have to go far to find a variety of summer camps to choose from, all run by neighbors!

## KIDS' ART CAMP

Brandon Thompson is mixed-media artist and kindergarten teacher who hosted his fourth annual Kids' Art Camp out of his home for kids ages 6-12. Camp runs for four days, and Brandon leads three one-hour sessions per day for 10-12 budding artists. Each session features a different art activity each day. Brandon says he hopes exposing young artists to new techniques will encourage them to be excited about art. "Over the two weeks of camp, we're learning about artists such as Keith Haring, Georges Seurat, and Theo Jansen, and we're doing projects such as print making, watercolors, metal embossing, line and patterns, mystery bag creations (kids have to make something using random objects within their bags), and tie dyeing."



Brandon loves being around children and introducing them to new things. "When the kids say, 'I can't wait to come back tomorrow,' that makes me smile and makes me excited for tomorrow too," he says.



Learn more about Brandon's art at his website, [www.allbentup.com](http://www.allbentup.com), or on Instagram @allbentup, and Facebook, all bent up.

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB

Stephanie Foley helped establish Good News Bible Clubs at Thoroughgood, Hermitage, and Shelton Park Elementary Schools. This July, she and her family hosted their fourth annual Backyard Bible Club for about 20 friends and neighbors at their home on Country Club Circle.

The camp ran for five days for 90 minutes per day. "The parents are always encouraged to come with their kids," Stephanie explains. We have a Bible lesson, missionary story, Bible verses, songs, and games. We love to give free Bibles and to encourage each parent and child regarding how much God loves them. Our family loves our Thoroughgood neighborhood, and we are so thankful to be here!"

## YOUNG MINDS DESIGN CAMP

Carla Ryan, an artist and former Thoroughgood Elementary school teacher, kicked off Young Minds Design Camp this summer. Each session focused on a different style of design or design-based job: floral design, interior design/architecture, and textile design/sewing. In the future, she plans to add design-focused weeks, such as comic book design, sculptural design, and graphic design. She says, "I hope that by exposing students to these different design fields, I can help them find a more specialized field that they enjoy, and perhaps maybe even be a future career!"





In addition to the three weeks of camps Carla hosted at her local studio this summer, she plans to offer individual project classes throughout the year and an after school class option at Thoroughgood Elementary in January. Carla says, "I absolutely love seeing the creativity that the students have. Each session I am always amazed at what the students are able to create! I also love sharing various skills with students. Having them leave with the confidence of knowing how to sew a button on, or create a flower arrangement, brings me such joy."



To learn more about Carla's classes and camps, visit her website: [www.youngmindsdesigns.com](http://www.youngmindsdesigns.com) or follow her @youngmindsdesigns on Facebook and Instagram.



### THOROUGHGOOD KIDS' SOCCER CAMP

Adults weren't the only neighbors hosting camps this summer! CJ Søemod and Ashton Taylor, both 12 and rising seventh graders at Plaza Middle School, hosted a backyard soccer camp. They advertised with brightly-colored, hand-written signs on signposts around the neighborhood.



CJ says, "The goal was to make the kids have fun while improving their soccer skills. We wanted the participants to improve their technique while meeting other soccer players from around the neighborhood."

CJ and Ashton had both attended camps before and were inspired by the coaches they had to try it out for themselves. Their camp ran for two days in July and they welcomed 10 aspiring soccer players ages 6-9. CJ says, "We loved working with them. There is definitely a lot of soccer talent in Thoroughgood!"

# Thoroughgood House

— FOCUS TOURS —

Have you ever wanted to take a deeper dive into unique historical topics?

Join the Virginia Beach History Museums for a series of FREE "Focus Tours" at the Thoroughgood House this summer, highlighting unique stories relating to the historic house, the greater Hampton Roads region and more.





## Herstory

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

Dive deep into the stories of some of the unheard voices in history at the Thoroughgood House. In colonial times, women's societal power was limited, but they were essential to maintaining their families and communities around them. "Herstory" focuses on these tales, including Susannah Sanford Thoroughgood, Sarah Offley, and their connection to the Thoroughgood House, as well as stories of matriarchal indigenous societies and the experiences of enslaved women at this time. Tours include a "Create your Own" story activity. Bind your own book and continue writing your stories.

Advanced registration is recommended. [vbmuseums.org](http://vbmuseums.org) | [vbhistory@vbgov.com](mailto:vbhistory@vbgov.com) | 757-385-5100



**Thoroughgood Civic League Membership**  
**July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025 Dues per Household: \$45**

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\*\*Please include your name, address, email, & phone in the "What's it for?" box.

**-OR-** Mail form + payment to:

Thoroughgood Civic League, PO Box 5853, Virginia Beach, VA 23471

\*\*We always need help from our Members to produce the newsletter, plan events, and revise Bylaws. Committees can 'work' via text, email, video, or in person- whatever works best for the group!

Email [members.tcl@gmail.com](mailto:members.tcl@gmail.com) if you'd like to share any of your time with us.

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# Seagull Scribbles: AN UPDATE FROM THE THOROUGHGOOD ELEMENTARY PTA

The Thoroughgood Elementary PTA is gearing up for another great school year beginning August 26th! We are so grateful to the Thoroughgood Civic League and the entire neighborhood for your support, encouragement, and patience with the school car lines.

## UPDATES

- Outdoor Learning! TES has two outdoor learning spaces this year: fun and functional furniture on the rooftop, and a serene outdoor area with tree stump seating.
- The PTA's Seagull Fundraiser will kick off on October 3 and culminate in a fun run on October 11. The PTA uses funds to pay for field trips, classroom materials and furniture, teacher appreciation activities, specialty nights, community events, and major projects like the outdoor classroom and the Sandy the Seagull mascot. Our goal is to make enough at this event to cover our budget, so we don't have to fundraise again this year!

**DRAFT PTA EVENTS CALENDAR** (subject to VBCPS approvals and vendor availability):

- September 14: Free Family Movie Night, 7 PM
- September 25: PTA General Meeting (members, non-members, and kids welcome), 6-7 PM
- October 3 - 11: Seagull Fundraiser (formerly Boosterthon)
- October 11: Seagull Fun Run
- December 7: Polar Express
- April 26: Spring Carnival (open to the community)



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## Brothers in Business

### THOROUGHGOOD BROTHERS MERRILL AND OWEN SCHMIDT ON THEIR HOMEGROWN BUSINESS

By Christina Caro

In 2019, when then 12-year-old Merrill and 10-year-old Owen Schmidt accepted a challenge from their parents Jim and Kim to take on a Compassion Project, both boys had different ideas of what they would do. Owen decided to raise money for children in developing countries. Merrill wanted to raise funds to donate to horse rescues. The family had recently adopted a horse named Louie from a local equine rescue where Kim was a volunteer.



*Merrill and Owen Schmidt with their horse Louie, the inspiration behind Happy Pops, in 2020.*

Merrill started researching treats for horses, having seen tutorials online to make frozen treats. He started to develop a frozen push-up pop that could be sold dry; customers would only need to add water and freeze before serving. "I liked the idea of the ingredients being dry and the containers being clear so people could see what was in them," Merrill explained. Owen joined the effort, and after lots of research and development, plenty of testing, and with their parents' help, the boys started their company, Happy Pops.

"10% of the proceeds has always gone to rescues. If you order online, you can actually choose which res-



*Entrepreneurs Merrill and Owen with their product.*

cue you support," Merrill shared. "We researched what ingredients were safe for horses, developed our recipes, and manufactured our products right in our kitchen." The family has lived in Thoroughgood for 11 years.

As the boys networked with local rescues, business owners, and family friends, they also learned more about wholesale opportunities. Happy Pops started popping up in more than a dozen retail stores as far away as Maine. One retailer shared that her dog loved the pops, and Merrill and Owen expanded their product line to include flavors specifically for dogs (Happy Pops are formulated in accordance with Association of American Feed Control Officials guidelines for consumption by dogs, horses, donkeys, goats, pigs, llamas, sheep and cows).

Happy Pops, with Merrill and Owen as the face of the company, appeared as a vendor at many local farmers' markets and pop-ups, becoming a favorite with local animal lovers and their pups. They also developed a website to make ordering easier. Their success seems to be, in large part, due to their personal touch.



*The brothers working a market in 2021.*

One of Owen's main roles was to check in with retailers and customers, which he found difficult initially, but he said, "After a while, I gained more confidence in my communication and I started to enjoy talking to customers and hearing their experiences."



*Owen with Louie, in 2023.*

In 2023, Merrill and Owen were approached with an offer to sell the company. Though they had not considered this prospect before, their full lives made giving the business the attention they believed it deserved a challenge. Both boys attend the Internation-

al Baccalaureate program at Princess Anne High School. Merrill also attends the Governor's School for the Arts as a musician, Owen plays baseball for his school, and both are active leaders in their church. This past year, Merrill also started offering guitar lessons throughout the neighborhood.

After much consideration and after soliciting advice on the contract terms and business valuation from their parents and trusted local business owners, Merrill and Owen signed the contract on their own and sold the company this past Spring to a local couple with plans to expand the business nationally.



*Merrill with Louie, in 2023.*

Now 17 and 15, Merrill and Owen have high hopes that the new owners will grow the business to its full potential, and they believe their Compassion Project and business is in good hands. Merrill said, "It feels like a good decision, but it was such an important thing for our family that it was hard to let it go."

Owen echoed his brother's attitude, adding that the experience helped him grow and drove home the Schmidt Family Motto, which is "We Can Do Hard Things." Reflecting on sale of the business he built with his brother, Owen said, "Happy Pops caused many all-nighters, but I loved every moment and I would do it again in a heartbeat."





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# Meet the 'Good Neighbors': SHIRLEY & JOHN DANNENHOFFER

By Amy Jones

Shirley and John Dannenhover settled in Thoroughgood in 2000. Shirley grew up in nearby Baylake Pines, across Shore Drive, where her parents still live. The Dannenhoffers bought their home on Thoroughgood Drive mostly for its pool and a huge backyard, which is where they spend most of their time.

## LANDSCAPING ENVY & POOLSIDE PARADISE



Shirley and John's impeccable front yard is a wonderful welcome to everyone who enters on Thoroughgood Drive. An inviting outdoor living area speaks volumes about Shirley and John's desire to create an enjoyable space to relax and entertain. Their large backyard is adjacent to Church Point, but from their yard, you can see only beautiful trees and greenery, making their

backyard seem endless and their outdoor oasis very private. The backyard is adorned by beautiful banana trees and an enormous fig tree.

Nearby neighbors join them at their beach-themed, poolside bar frequently.

## KINDNESS INCARNATE

Shirley and John's neighbors benefit from more than just a beautiful environment. Their kindness and generosity strengthens the community spirit. They have been known to check on their elderly neighbor every day, and Shirley helped her next-door neighbor during this spring's Thoroughgood Yard Sale. Kind, helpful neighbors make this a special place!

## FAVORITE ACTIVITIES

Some of Shirley and John's favorite activities are taking walks and riding bikes where they admire the huge, old trees, and the wildlife all over the neighborhood. They also enjoy being able to ride their bikes to Taste's "Live on the Lawn" events.

## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Shirley remembers riding her bike from Baylake Pines through the cornfields that are now Church Point to get to Thoroughgood Elementary. She reminisces about working at Bayville Farms



Dairy Store, which is now Taste, and remembers taking field trips to Bayville Farms to milk the cows. She has seen ghosts at the Church Point Manor and jumped on the trampoline and played on the wooden raft with lifeguards overseeing her at the old YMCA, which was located where Aeries on the Bay is now.

## BENEFITS OF A BEACH TOWN

Shirley learned to ski on Lake Joyce and developed her love of the water by being surrounded by it. She enjoys sitting on beach along the Chesapeake Bay, boating on her big beautiful motorboat, Kon Tiki, as well as on her refurbished childhood '64 Boston Whaler that she and John love taking on excursions to the Eastern Shore's barrier islands.

## THE BEST PARTS OF THOROUGHGOOD

Shirley is thankful that our neighborhood is well-established, full of memories, and she knows someone everywhere she goes. She also loves Thoroughgood's central location, but that it is not too close to busy shopping areas.

Shirley and John love to listen to Little Creek's morning National Anthem and Evening Colors and enjoy watching the abundant birds that in their outdoor oasis and all around the neighborhood. They love their kind neighbors, and recall that once they even received a thank you note for decorating their house so festively in the spirit of Christmas.

## ADVICE TO NEIGHBORS

Enjoy the neighborhood and get out to see the peaceful beauty our it has to offer!



# Thoroughgood Students Seeking Work

Babysitting, pet sitting and house sitting, 2 years experience. References available upon request.	Marin Smith, age 15 and a Sophomore at PA IB	757-901-8480 (text please)
Grass cutting, edging, blowing. Small yard clean up.	Brodie D'Antonio 12 years old, parent will supervise	757-450-4848 (please text Brodie's dad)
Mowing, edging, leaf clean up	Fletcher Creech, 16 years old	757-612-2800 (text please)
Watering plants, pet care, picking up mail, pulling trash cans. Other tasks as requested.	Nathan Musial, 9th grader	757-647-2265 (text or call please)
Babysitting, 4 years of babysitting experience	Layla Compton High School Senior	757-406-1877 (text please)
Babysitting, 3 years experience, CPR and Stop the Bleed Certified	Mirabella Caro, Junior, at Bayside High	757-756-8770 (text please)
Face painting for parties	Emerie Caro, Freshman at First	443-745-2941 (text Emerie's mom)
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# Thoroughgood Garden Club Yards of the Month

The Thoroughgood Garden Club hopes you've enjoyed the Yard of the Month awards! Please continue to submit nominations to Simi Carlson at [simicarson81@gmail.com](mailto:simicarson81@gmail.com). Guidelines can be found at [www.thoroughgood.org](http://www.thoroughgood.org). Don't forget! Special recognition will be given on October 15 for Halloween and December 15 for the Holidays.

So far, four of our neighbors have been celebrated with the honor of having the Yard of the Month in 2024. Congratulations and thanks go to the following recipients:



*May: Bob & Pixie Tolhurst  
1381 Dunstan Lane*



*June: Andy Mullen  
4133 Hermitage Point*



*July: Jim & Terry Simmons  
4501 Biscayne Drive*



*August: Mark & Tricia Hoff  
4313 Hermitage Road*

*Thank you to our Yard of the Month sponsors:*





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# Garden Club Updates



Want to meet neighbors, make a difference in our community and learn how to not kill all your plants? Join the Thoroughgood Garden Club! We exist to promote and develop the love of gardening through education, conservation, outreach and beautification of our community. We meet on the first Thursday of each month and will kick off the new year in September with our Fall Buffet and our first meeting October 3 at 7:00 pm. For more information contact Simi Carlson at [simicarlson81@gmail.com](mailto:simicarlson81@gmail.com).

**LOOKING FOR US ONLINE?**

Our neighborhood website, [www.thoroughgood.org](http://www.thoroughgood.org) is up and running! Check back for updates, or join the Civic League using the prompts on the page. To follow us on Facebook: Search "Thoroughgood Civic League" and request to join.

## Your Agent Matters

Reducing the effect of the increasing interest rates on your home value.



**4225 Hermitage**

May 2021 Sold **\$702K** — Sold 2023 **\$855K**  
3% interest rate 7% interest rate



**4325 Thoroughgood**

September 2021 Sold **\$659K** — Sold October 2023 **\$797K**  
3% interest rate 7% interest rate

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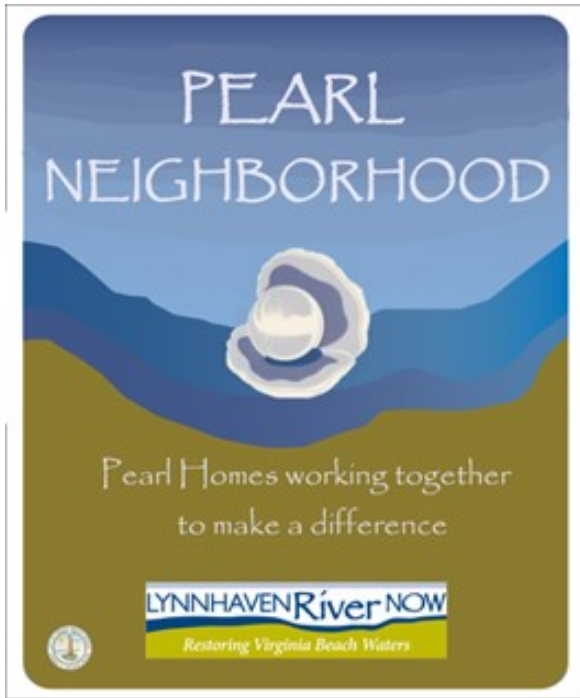
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# Thoroughgood Designated a Pearl Neighborhood



Thanks to the efforts of so many of our neighbors, Thoroughgood is now officially a Lynnhaven River Now Pearl Neighborhood!

Lynnhaven River Now is a non-profit organization that exists to further the belief that every community in Virginia should have pure water, clean air and access to open spaces for recreation. The organization began in 2002 and works to restore and protect Virginia Beach's waterways and natural resources. Virginia Beach has a very complex system of eight watersheds that make up 3 major watersheds: Little Creek, Lynnhaven River, Atlantic Ocean, Rudee and Owl Creek, Back Bay, North Landing River, Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River and, the Northwest River.

Thoroughgood is located in the Lynnhaven Watershed, the most densely populated in Virginia Beach, accounting for over half of the city's population. That's all the more reason for us all to do our part to protect the environment and waterways we love.

Pearl Neighborhoods are local communities that have established 30% of their homes as Pearl Homes, provided an environmental education opportunity to the neighborhood from LRNow, and completed an Earth-friendly community project in a shared communal space.

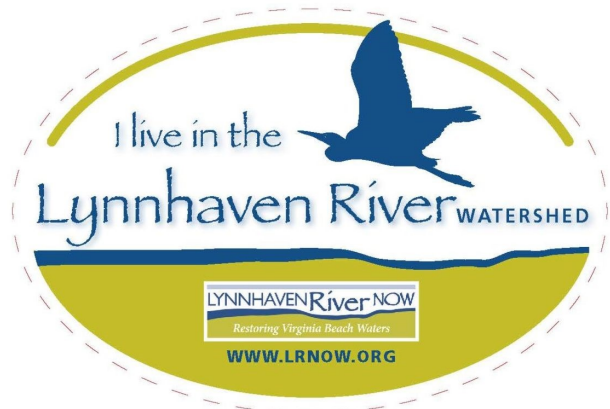
What is a Pearl Home?

Pearl Homes are places where people care about our community and our environment and want to do what they can to live responsibly and help protect our resources. So much of the progress LRNow has made in restoring our waterways is a result of the great work residents are doing to change their practices and adopt more sustainable behaviors.



Is your home a Pearl Home yet? You're probably already employing some of the practices required to earn this designation! Simple tasks such as cleaning up after your pet, recycling, using a refillable water bottle instead of single-use plastic, using reusable shopping bags, and picking up litter are just some of the ways you can protect our local waterways. To fill out the online Pearl Home application and to learn more about how you can support LRNow's efforts to improve our Virginia Beach waterways, visit [www.lynnhavenrivernow.org](http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org).

Thank you for demonstrating your care for our environment by helping Thoroughgood reach this goal! And thanks to the Thoroughgood Garden Club for their leadership and advocacy.





Thoroughgood Civic League  
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Virginia Beach, VA 23471

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## **UPCOMING DATES**

**SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**  
Thursday, 8/22 6:30 PM

**FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**  
Thursday, 10/17 6:30 PM

**Special Guests:**  
At-Large School Board Candidates  
Monty Ashliman and Sharon Felton.

Join us at Bayside Presbyterian.  
Refreshments at 6:30, meeting starts at  
7PM.