



Next Civic League Meeting

LOCATION: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM



Please join us for the next Civic League meeting. Items for discussion include:

- **The annual election of officers**
- **Traffic issues**
- **Crime statistics and home security**
- **Impact of the tunnel tolls on Portsmouth**
- **Planning ahead for the new year**



Beware holiday scammers and thieves

The holidays are here and so are the scammers. Any time there are lots of people who are anxious to make lots of purchases at the same time, scammers and thieves scurry out from under their rocks. The following is a summary of scams to watch out for from Kiplinger:

- **Bogus shipment notifications.**

An unexpected email that may even look legitimate advising you that you must click on their link to receive a shipment has a high likelihood of having a virus on the other end. Go directly to the shipper's site to track packages to avoid getting your system infected.

- **Malware e-cards.**

Scammers are capitalizing on the fact that more people are sending e-cards for the holidays. If you open a bogus e-Christmas card, malicious software can be embedded on them. Delete e-cards from people you do not know.

- **Phony special offers/sales**

If you receive an email advertising a special sale or saying that you just won a free gift card, don't click on it. Go directly to the company website or Facebook page to verify any sale. Contact the business itself to verify any prize award. Remember, if you didn't enter a contest, you didn't win anything.

- **Bogus charities**

Cyber-criminals are good at making a fake web site look legitimate. Also, just because the link says one place you might find yourself in a look-alike trap. Letting your pointer hover over a link can reveal a dialog box with the true destination. You are better served by sticking with a reputable charity.

Area Tolls

Most of you are aware that the Virginia State Supreme Court has ruled that the new tolls in and around Portsmouth are legal. These new tolls will go into effect on February 1st next year. They will impact your commute and where/how you shop.

The Shea Terrace Civic League will be hosting discussions on the immediate impact on your travel budget, most/least expensive routes, and strategies to minimize cost.

A recent article in VirginiaBusiness.com spells out how much these tolls will cost if you use E-ZPass. The cost increases during peak hours.

Here is a link to the November 6th article:

<http://www.virginiabusiness.com/news/article/new-customer-service-center-in-portsmouth-will-help-residents-gear-up-for-t>



Our NIO

Great news! Sean Hughes, our Neighborhood Impact Officer (NIO), is getting promoted to sergeant. The bad news is... sergeants are not assigned as NIOs. Sean will be reassigned to supervisory duties elsewhere.

The executive committee is working with the Portsmouth Police department to ensure that Shea Terrace receives a "top-shelf" relief for Sergeant-select Hughes.

Until this change takes place, you should continue to contact Officer Sean Hughes about persistent non-emergency issues at 235-4556. News of our new NIO and contact information will be posted on our web site at www.sheaterrace.com, through the email tree, and on nextdoor.com.

Why Have a Civic League?

Ever notice the lovely decorations at the entrance to the neighborhood and the beautiful flowers in the park? Thank the Beautification Committee. Glad we have a yard sale each year? That's us. Want a newsletter to keep up to date on things every once in a while? Lose a pet and contact the webmaster? Well...that's us too.

Most of the time, the Civic League functions adequately with the 8 or so people who participate out of a neighborhood of 400 households. We nag the city to fix street lights, sweep the streets, pick up stray garbage, and get the Park mowed when the grass gets high.

The real reason we need to be here, though, is because the City can't talk to all 400 of us when they need input. They have to know that we will be here and that we will have our say about what they intend to do.

When a really serious issue arises, like a chemical company who wants to sneak in and spew sulfur all over us, we HAVE to be here to organize and respond. We HAVE to have a President with an email and phone to contact. Presidents sacrifice a lot of time to this volunteer job. So please, consider showing up to participate in a meeting.

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