

# GREATER FIRST COLONY NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Volume 42, Issue 4

## The President's Corner

Spring has sprung and "April showers bring May flowers" and I couldn't be happier with our changing seasons. With change comes new opportunity and with so many voices present and heard in our Q1 Community Meeting, the opportunity to help make our Association stronger and our community flourish is evident! Thank you for taking the time and effort to be a part of that meeting.

There were several community concerns brought to the Boards attention that if appropriate, we plan to review and address by committee or directly amongst the Board, but please know that you were heard. One common theme that we cannot control is our beaver activity. There are great references to leverage on our GFCACA website ([www.greaterfirstcolony.org](http://www.greaterfirstcolony.org)) but the best way to handle beaver activity is to wrap your trees. Sometimes the simplest answer is the best!

While I am thanking our GFCACA membership, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our GFCACA volunteers serving on the Board, as Committee Chairs and Members, Events leads, and any of you that "lean in" when you see something that needs to be done to help make GFCACA a better place to live. THANK YOU!

If you are wondering how you can get involved, consider hosting and/or volunteering at one of our Events (or create a fun new event for us to do), and sign up or just show up to one of the "Clean-up" days at the Marina (4/13), Park (TBD) and Capital Trail (TBD)! There is even our Garden Club's Yard Sale (4/20) that you could donate to and do a bit of your own "spring cleaning"! So many ways to get involved!

I look forward to continuing to meet you out in the neighborhood and at all of our various activities! Keep an eye out for e-mails about more Food Truck nights at the park and Community Night at our local Brewhouse-Frothy Moon, or just join your neighbors for some friendly pickleball or sunset gatherings at the Marina this spring! See you there!

Regards,

**Jen Summers, President**  
[firstcolonypresident@gmail.com](mailto:firstcolonypresident@gmail.com)  
757-846-6807

## Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Jen Summers. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Jen Summers (President), Jesse Pound (Vice President), Eric Laurenzo (Secretary), Caitlin Saenz (Treasurer), Brett Major (Past President), Amy Day (Business Manager); Members-At-Large: Neil LaFountain, Marianne Wrightson, Melanie Davis, Anna Kelly, Chris Mari-gano, Mike Youshock.

Committee Chairs Present: Kevin Downing (Clubhouse), Patricia Burke (Welcome Committee), Andrew Mayfield (Marina & Beach), Anna Kelly (Recreation), Roger Hunt (Tennis/Pickleball); Dan Delaney (Pool), Matt Wawersik (Lake).

### Committee Reports

**Marina & Beach.** Tuesday, March 12th the committee met for the first time in 2024 and discussed needed updates and improvements to the Marina. There is a plan for putting together another kayak rack, as the waiting list was sufficient to require it. There will be a new swim rope purchased and set up this year. April 13th will be the day that is tentatively set for the marina clean up day; a request is for any member of the association who is interested in helping would be able to come on that day (please bring any rakes/tools that you have that would help). The gate that was recently broken has already been replaced. The matter was referred to the police and the party responsible has already been approached by the authorities. March 31st, slip/storage/dry storage is due. The links to pay are updated on the Marina page and on the association page. There is a fee to use the ramp this year, and stickers will be provided to those paying members.

**Lake.** Annual Bald Eagles and Osprey show is going on at the lake as the Osprey are reclaiming their nests. Thanks to Kevin Danker for redoing the website. And to Gene Bruss for spearheading some work replacing wood at Pasbeheg park lake access. If you have boats in storage at the park, please update your membership as dues are coming up soon. Lake committee continues to take care of clearing out the spillway in order to make sure that the dam does not overflow. Reminder

to wrap your trees with chicken wire to keep them safe from the beavers.

**Park.** Mainly the park is in the process of updating and repairs. The regrading of the parking lot has been completed. The memorial garden is also being updated. There is a lot of area of the park that is remaining unused, and the Park committee is looking for ideas from the community as to what can be done with the area. Dominion has been contacted about the lights on the basketball court, as they are supposed to be on until 10 pm.

Trail clean up will be in April and a call for volunteers will be sent out approximately a week in advance.

**Tennis/Pickleball.** Tennis courts and pickleball court fencing is finished. There is a vendor that will be coming back in and fixing the cracks and repainting the courts.

**Welcome.** Pat continues to enjoy welcoming families; last year she was able to welcome 24 families and there are approximately 10/15 families that she has left items for but been unable to connect with.

**Clubhouse.** Committee would like to remind members of the association that the discounted rate for the rental of the clubhouse is available, and there is an online calendar that will allow for real time scheduling and there is a QR code to allow for credit card payments. Committee is looking for a new member of the association that would like to learn over the busy season of the summer on how to run the clubhouse in order to step in as the Chair for the committee. If you are interested, please reach out to Kevin Downing at firstcolonyclubhouse@gmail.com.

**Recreation/Social/Events.** There will be a co-chair joining the committee. The neighborhood picnics are open to new hosts for the celebrations. If you are interested in hosting an event for the neighborhood, there will be a flyer created by the committee in order to provide some information. If you have a party or event that you are interested in hosting/creating, please reach out to the Recreation Committee.

**Pool.** Pool is looking for sometime in May to begin the opening process. As the pool is in use with 757, there will be little activity this year needed to get the pool ready for opening. Will be putting together a pool committee in the coming months to help determine how to proceed with some of the pool items that arise during the year. The committee will be reviewing the rules and the rates for membership. Members of the pool who have some questions or ideas for the pool, or would like to join the pool committee, please contact firstcolonypoolchair@gmail.com.

**Garden Club.** In order to raise funds for the beautification of First Colony grounds, the Garden club will be running a Yard sale on April 20th in the pavilion at the park. Members of the community are welcome to put up their own tables around the park to join the yard

sale. All proceeds from the Garden Club portion of the yard sale are donated directly to the Association.

**Sunshine Committee.** No Updates

**Flyers.** Head coach, Dylan Delaney, has been hired. July 1, 8, and 22 will be the home meets and the pool will be closed on those days. Fees will be set in the coming months. One change from past years is that they will not be hosting swim lessons this year. There will be swim tests in order to make sure the participants can swim the length of the pool. Members who want lessons are encouraged to use 757 summer swim prep or private lessons. Lisa Evans will be transitioning over as the head of the Flyers this year.

### **Board Reports.**

**Treasurer.** Kicking off a finance committee; first meeting 3/13/2024; Goal of the finance committee is to look at the assets and reserves, and the plan is to create a holistic game plan for the neighborhood as well as setting up for succession between treasurers.

### **Member comments and discussion:**

There is a discussion as to the pool policy in regards to guest passes and the current limitations that are in place with the pool. Members are advised to bring issues to the Pool chair or to a board member and they will be considered.

Member idea brought as to putting a cell phone tower in the same area where the Surrey siren is located.

Member request for gravel to be added to the boat "ramp" at the lake in order to eliminate how slippery the area is.

Member request of Flyers as to whether practices are going to be held at an earlier time to accommodate working families.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Eric Lorenzo, Secretary**

## **Events**

April 13	(tent) Marina Clean up Day
April 15	Garden Club Meeting 2 pm, Clubhouse
April 20	Yard Sale 8 am til Noon, First Colony Park



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## Garden Club

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The First Colony Garden Club is holding a Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 20 at the Park Pavilion! We'll have home décor, holiday décor, gardening and cookbooks, handcrafted items and more. We'll also have baked goods and plants for sale, so please stop by! The money we raise from the yard sale helps us beautify our First Colony neighborhood.

We are gratefully accepting items that you'd like to donate to the sale (no clothes and no books other than cookbooks and gardening books). Please bring them by the park pavilion between 7:30-8 a.m. on April 20. If you can't drop off that day, you can drop them at 106 Lawnes Circle anytime April 15 or after, just text me at 703-615-3879 before you come by. This is your chance to declutter and do a little Spring cleaning while helping out our great neighborhood! Any questions, please email [GFCGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:GFCGardenClub@gmail.com).

Our March speaker, Kate Melhuish, gave the presentation, "Hummingbirds at Home." Our area is a breeding ground for the ruby-throated hummingbird. Did you know that hummingbirds winter in Central America and must fly for 18 hours non-stop to cross the Gulf of Mexico during migration? Oil rigs hang hummingbird feeders to give the birds a rest stop!

At our April 15 meeting (Tax Day!!), we'll be in the Clubhouse at 2 p.m., preparing for the yard sale and doing some easy crafts to sell. For May, we're planning a field trip to Pinkham Farm, time, day and other details TBD. Bill and Linda Pinkham are artists, daylily breeders, horticulturists, and landscape design experts who retired from the nursery business over twenty years ago. Since their retirement, they've created a beautiful garden on the James River.

If you're interested in joining the Garden Club, feel free to drop by for our April 15 meeting, or email [GFCGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:GFCGardenClub@gmail.com) to get on the distribution list to receive details of our May trip.

**Jan Walker, Secretary**  
[GFCGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:GFCGardenClub@gmail.com)

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## Recreation

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Here is a line up of upcoming events this spring/summer that will need families to organize/put them on with the support of the board and recreation committee.

Memorial Day picnic - Sunday May 26th in the evening at the park

July 4th picnic - final date and location TBD, evening time.

Labor Day Picnic - final date TBD, at the park evening time.

And if you have an idea for an event- please come to the meeting or msg me so we can see if we can make it happen!! We love all new ideas! I need to make it clear that we will need a family or multiple families to volunteer to take the lead for each of these events within a reasonable timeframe of the event- or they may not happen. We will absolutely provide volunteer event hosts with all the necessary info about budget, what is needed, how to access supplies, and who to contact for everything! Can't make the meeting but want to volunteer or learn more about what volunteering means? Email me at [acmahr1@gmail.com](mailto:acmahr1@gmail.com).

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## Sunshine Committee

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I received the following thank you note from Karen Schell: Dear Ann, Thank you for the flowers you sent both to my Dad and Jeff and I with the loss of my brother. We appreciate the kindness of our neighbors and the civic association. The note arrived while I was away in February, thus the late entry here.

We sent sympathy bouquets to Ruth Harris on the passing of her husband Don, of Argall Towne, and also to his two sons, Tim and Jonathan of our neighborhood.

*I appreciate so much when neighbors inform me of sadness or sickness in our community. Please don't assume that someone else will tell me. I would rather get 10 calls than none to alert me to sickness or any other adversity. We want those in pain to know that we care. It doesn't take a minute to call or send me an email. Thanks to all those who keep me informed.*

**Ann Hunt, Sunshine Chair**  
[huntslanding@cox.net](mailto:huntslanding@cox.net); 757-229-1384

First Colony Garden Club  
**YARD SALE**

plus Plant and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 20, 2024

8.00 AM - 12 NOON

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**Why was  
the donkey  
annoying his  
friend?**

It was April  
Mules' Day!





**Eli Hunt**  
 ASSOCIATE BROKER  
*Your neighbor in First Colony!*  
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 elihunt@lizmoore.com | lizmoore.com/elihunt





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# First Colony Employment Helpline

First	Last	Job	Age	Email	Phone
Claire	Day	Babysitting, Pet Sitting	12		757-272-6370
Maggie	Day	Babysitting	16		757-585-8102
Benjamin	Hardy	Mowing/Yardwork, Pet Sitting, Babysitting	17	<a href="mailto:BenHardy2114@gmail.com">BenHardy2114@gmail.com</a>	(757)604-9609
Dalton	Mara	Babysitting, Pet Sitting	15		804-931-5122
Quinn	Mara	Babysitting, Pet Sitting	10		804-931-5105
Matthew	Meacham	Lawn moving, mulching, weeding	11 1/2		757-940-3306
Connor	Robbins	Pet sitting, Lawn mowing	13		757-645-2901
Delaney	Robbins	Babysitting, Pet sitting	16/ driving		757-903-1336
Andy	Tuckey	Lawn mowing/yard work, Pet Sitting	16		757-206-3656

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2024

Feb

29

**Blood Drive**  
12-5 PM

Apr

25

**Blood Drive**  
12-5 PM

Jun

20

**Blood Drive**  
12-5 PM

Aug

15

**Blood Drive**  
12-5 PM

Oct

10

**Blood Drive**  
12-5 PM

Dec

5

**Blood Drive**  
12-5 PM



A beautiful, spacious and affordable facility, the Clubhouse is available for rental by members and non-members for business meetings, private functions, community events, and much more. The Clubhouse features high ceilings, patio, deck, full kitchen, seating for up to 150 people, ample parking and a beautiful view of the park. The Clubhouse is located at 125 Pasbeheg, adjacent to the playground, pavilion and pool.

<b>GFCACA Clubhouse Rates</b>			
GFCACA Member Rate Monday- Sunday	Deposit \$150		
Number of attendees	1-49		50-125
up to 3 hours	\$60		\$75
up to 5 hours	\$80		\$100
up to 8 hours	\$120		\$150
Non-Residents Monday- Thursday	Deposit \$250		
Number of attendees	1-49		50-125
up to 3 hours	\$90		\$100
up to 5 hours	\$120		\$135
up to 8 hours	\$180		\$200
Non-Residents Friday-Sunday	Deposit \$250		
Number of attendees	1-49		50-125
up to 3 hours	\$105		\$135
up to 5 hours	\$150		\$180
up to 8 hours	\$225		\$270

**You may contact any Clubhouse member for information or to take a tour. (Clubhouse members are listed below)**

**Kevin Downing - Chairman 757.876.6881  
 Firstcolonyclubhouse@gmail.com**

**Marriane Wrightson. 757.903.8327 wrightson108@gmail.com**

**Brian O'Day 717.439.4399 boday515@gmail.com**

**Lisa Tuckey 804.854.4948 lisatuckey@hotmail.com**

**Terry Walker 703.966.5700 tlwalker966@gmail.com**

**Brett Major 757.808.5332 bmajor@me.com**

**Kerry Armbruster 757.869.1525 Jeff.arm@hotmail.com**

**Denise Thomas 757.344.6049 Denise.Thomas53@gmail.com**