



What About Fireworks?

- by Chris Naughton

There have been concerns voiced to the SHOA about the use of fireworks in our neighborhood. The primary concern is because of the density of trees in our neighborhood, and secondarily the dried leaves on the ground in certain areas of Salisbury. There is a considerable potential for fire should any of these areas be accidentally exposed. After speaking with Captain James Dawson, Deputy Fire Marshall for the Chesterfield Fire Dept., we would like to share the following information in regards to the safe or unsafe use of fireworks.

- A. Chesterfield County Fire Prevention Code **prohibits** the sale, possession and use of common consumer fire works. These fireworks include fire crackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and the like.
- B. It is a **Class 1 misdemeanor** for anyone in the county to sell, use or display these fireworks that can be purchased outside of Chesterfield, or out of state,
- C. There are several hazards associated with these types of fireworks, and their use has been attributed to the cause of several fires in the county over the past few years. Injuries associated with these devices can also be catastrophic, causing burns and other injuries.
- D. Penalties for the use, possession and sale of the items can be as much as much as a \$2500 fine and up to **12 months in jail**. **Civil liability for property damage** could also amount to a significant amount as well.

Please keep this in mind as we try to enjoy holidays such as New Year's Eve and Independence Day. If Salisbury homeowners have any questions, please call the County Fire Dept. office at (804) 748-1426

