



Civic League
Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

Bayside Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, 17 December

5:30 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner

- Bring a non-dessert side dish to share
- Civic League to provide - Turkey, ham, shrimp, drinks, rolls, desserts, and tableware
- Visit from Santa (photo opportunity – bring your camera)

Live entertainment, Door Prizes & 50/50 Raffle

Free for all Civic League Members and their families. Not a member – not a problem. Join at the door.



Lake Smith Terrace / Haygood Point / Governor Square Civic League, Inc.

P.O. Box 68883
Virginia Beach, VA 23471
www.LHGCL.org

Meetings held 3rd Tuesday, September through May,
at Bayside Presbyterian Church

Officers, Directors, & Representatives

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Treasurer:	
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**Newsletter deadline: 25th of the month prior to
month of publication.**

Winter is upon us. Maybe we will have a white Christmas this year – or maybe not.

We had a good turnout at our November civic league meeting. Officer David Schoenbach gave an excellent presentation on current crime trends and steps each of us can take to keep from becoming a victim of crime. The audience was very engaged and asked excellent questions. Mike Graham won the 50:50 drawing, but it appeared Paula Graham took possession of the winnings – we guys know how that works.

This month our civic league is hosting the annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner event in lieu of a membership meeting. See details on the front page. I hope everyone will be able to prepare or purchase a side dish to share and enjoy a great evening with your friends and neighbors. This year we have a live entertainment surprise. If you would like to volunteer to fill in for Santa, please contact me at 757-642-4844. We have a Santa suit and all the accessories.

We received an update on the project to repair the erosion in the storm-water drainage canal between Lake Smith Terrace and Lakeview Shores. Originally the project was expected to begin construction in October with a completion date in February 2025. I always believed that was an overly optimistic schedule. As it has turned out, the permitting process has caused a setback to the timeline. Any time you are working with water, the permitting process goes through several different agencies – each of which can cause delay. As of now, the city expects to put the project out for bids in February with a projected construction start date sometime around June 2025. More to come as we receive further updates.

The Cypress Point Shopping Center has been purchased by Boyd Homes. We long anticipated a move of this type with that deteriorating shopping center. I had a conversation with one of the owners at Boyd Homes regarding their plans for the site. There is no final plan as of now but based on our conversation, I believe their goal for the project is to blend well with the surrounding area. See the separate article supplied by Boyd Homes in this newsletter.

The ongoing saga of the proposed traffic light at the Paul Revere/Wakefield – Independence intersection is still with us. Walt Stone and Megan Earlenbaugh are our committee members focused on this issue. Walt researched every applicable section of the Federal Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices and authored a forty-four-page report that essentially debunked the original case for the traffic light at that intersection. We believe the original data from the 2016-2020 period is outdated and inaccurate and no longer applicable. On 22 November Megan, Walt, and I met with L.J. Hansen, Virginia Beach Director of Public Works, where the report was presented. It is a great deal of well researched data that should cause a complete rethink of this project. The public meeting at Independence Middle School scheduled for 4 December has been postponed to a yet to be determined date after the first of the year. Unfortunately, we have no support from our District 9 councilman, a resident of Thoroughgood, for ending this project. More on that later.

Edi and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

John Eason

Cleaning a Front Loading Washing Machine



Front-loaders have a rubber seal at the front of the drum that gathers hair, coins, socks and any other grime and debris that goes through the washing machine.

Step 1: Before you begin, put down an old towel to protect the floor. Also wear clothes that you are okay getting bleach on.

Step 2: Open the machine door and pull open the seal to really see what's going on in there. Start by pulling out as much gunk as possible with a paper towel.

Step 3: Grab some bleach and a scrub brush, small enough to fit into the seal of your machine. Make sure your washing machine is empty, and pour about half a cup of bleach straight into the seal. Grab your scrub brush and begin scrubbing the inside. Scrub all around the seal, working your way around the circumference of the drum. (Make sure you pull the seal away from the drum, and you should see a plastic piece where more sludge is usually hiding. Hold back the seal while you scrub in there.)

Step 4: Once you've lifted as much mold and staining as possible, use a paper towel to wipe out the seal.

DETERGENT DRAWER

Pull your drawer out, and you should see a little push tab near the back. Push down on the tab and pull the drawer out at the same time. Look into the slot where the drawer came out and scan for any mold or detergent buildup. The top is usually where we find the most mold. Grab your scrub brush with some bleach and water again and get scrubbing. Use a paper towel to wipe away the excess after you've lifted the mold.

The drawer you just removed can also accumulate mold, hard water deposits, and detergent build up. Take apart the inserts of the drawer in your sink and use bleach and a scrub brush to clean off any mold or filth. Rinse well. If it has hard water deposits, let it soak in vinegar for about a half-hour or as long as needed, then scrub with a brush. Make sure you thoroughly rinse and dry it off before putting the drawer back together and into its slot. If there are rust stains, you can use Iron Out on a cloth to remove them.

DRUM/DOOR

Once you've cleaned the seal and the detergent drawer,

it's time to clean the drum and door. Some doors will build up with limescale or soap residue, leaving a white coating. Gently scrub inside the glass door with bleach. To clean the drum, place some powdered Tide® and water on a microfibre cloth and wipe to remove any remnants. If it's still not entirely off, then the bleach cycle you're about to do should leave it sparkling.

Fill the bleach dispenser in the drawer with bleach to the top line. Close the door and set your machine to the longest and hottest cycle possible. The bleach cycle will clean not only the drum but also the glass and seal. Once the cycle is finished, your machine should be sparkling and smell clean. To keep up with the cleanliness of your machine, use Tide® Washing Machine Cleaner and follow the instructions on the package. You typically use it once a month, but if your machine is horrible, use it every week for three weeks.

Pro tip - To maintain the clean smell and make sure the mold doesn't come back, leave the door and detergent drawer slightly ajar.

Cypress Point Shopping Center Being Redesigned to Accommodate New Vision and Concept

Cypress Point Shopping Center Re-Development
This is a statement from Boyd Homes

As you may or may not know, Boyd Homes affiliated company has purchased Cypress Point Shopping Center with the intention of bringing a new vision to this location. We are currently in the conceptual stages of the re-development.

Our vision contemplates a walkable, amenity driven, mixed-use re-development, with townhomes and trophy-class multi-family residences. We will do this while retaining their in-demand retail and eateries the surrounding communities enjoy in a re-designed and more efficient shopping experience.

Boyd Homes wants to make Cypress Point a landmark in the community, using innovative and desirable design elements, high-quality construction materials, color palettes, and amenities designed to draw residents, neighbors, and customers together in a walkable, livable space.

We look forward to working with the community to make Cypress Point a destination for both the local residents and retailers.

Please welcome our new dentist Dr. Kelly Paxton
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'Tis the Season to join the Civic League! Your annual fee of \$20 allows admission to our Christmas Dinner this month!!! The more who attend, the merrier it will be!! Please show your support by sending in the completed form along with your \$20 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. You may also join the evening of our Christmas Dinner!!

We really need more members to help support our Civic League Events that we have throughout the year. Your support is greatly appreciated! Merry Christmas and have a blessed holiday season!!

Jean Bowman

Civic League Membership Form – New or Renewal

(Please Print)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Please mail your check to:

LST/HP/GS Civic League
P.O. Box 68883
Virginia Beach, VA 23471

(For email broadcast of crime alerts and other community interest topics)

Dues are \$20.00 per household for the Civic League Year which runs from January 1 to December 31

The Civic League is always looking for members to volunteer in the following areas:

(Please check any position(s) for which you would like to volunteer – not required for membership)

Neighborhood Watch

Easter Egg Hunt

Christmas Dinner

Fall Festival (Picnic, Hayride & Pumpkin Patch)

Community Maintenance

Refreshments for Meetings & Events

Civic League Board of Directors

You name it, I'll do it

The following new and renewing memberships were received and recorded between October 28, 2024, and November 25, 2024. Thank you for supporting your civic league – we are all in this together. Memberships are for 2024 unless otherwise indicated.

- Paul & Jane Ackiss (2026)
- William & Sanfra Baker (2026)
- Steve & Donna Buckley (2025)
- Mike & Annette Cherwa (2026)
- Grant & Lynn Coull (2025)
- Mark & Tracy Creamer (2026)
- Sam & Rosa Edge (2025)
- Betty Fultz (2025)
- Elliot & Kelsey Hall
- Bill & Deanie Hickman (2027)
- Joe & Kellee Kraft (2025)
- Mike & Kathryn (2025)
- Danny & Yvonne Lyaal (2027)
- Marie Parr (2025)

- Nancy Pasqualino (2025)
- Richie & Marilola Ramdeholl
- Tracy Nash & Marco Sifuentes (2026)
- Walt & Shannon Stone
- Ann G. Sutliff (2027)

Join the civic league and bring the family to the Christmas Potluck Dinner! See ya there!



Thank you for being the most important part of our Neighborhood Watch. It is because of your vigilance that we enjoy a safe low-crime community. For the Neighborhood Watch program to be totally effective, every resident must take an active role. This program will not work without you. Your job is to just be observant.

Our Area Coordinators and Block Captains deserve a big thank you too, but if you choose not to get involved then the job of keeping our community safe will become overwhelming.

The holiday season is a time of joy, but it is also a time of opportunity for the would-be criminal. Be extra alert. Don't let someone steal your enjoyment of the holidays. Remind your out-of-town guests that everyone in this community keeps their vehicles locked and valuables out of sight.

Some safety tips for when you are out shopping:

- Shop with friends or relatives when taking a trip to the store. You may find safety in numbers.
- Keep your purse close to your body and your wallet in an inside coat pocket or a front pants pocket. This may help you avoid thieves who might try to swipe them from your shopping cart or unmonitored back pocket.
- Select a central location to meet if you are shopping with children in case you are separated. Teach kids how to ask a security guard or employee for help if they are lost.
- Be aware of exit locations in case an emergency occurs.
- Remain alert to your surroundings and try not to be too distracted by your phone or carry an overwhelming number of bags.

Will you get involved if you witness criminal activity?

Watch for the unusual – if you suspect anything out of the ordinary, see suspicious people or see suspicious activity in the neighborhood:

Call the VBPD non-emergency number, 757-385-5000. Give them a description of the person or persons and describe why you feel they are acting suspicious.

If you see an actual crime being committed or about to be committed, call VBPD at **911 immediately**.

We hope you had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the Holidays!



Easy Crockpot Beef Stroganoff

Ingredients

¼	C	butter
2	lb	boneless beef sirloin steak, cut into bite size pieces
1 ¼	C	beef broth
2	TBL	olive oil
1	C	chopped onion
2	ea	cloves garlic, finely chopped
1	ea	can condensed cream of mushroom soup
8	oz	sliced fresh mushrooms or canned mushrooms
½	tsp	salt
¼	tsp	pepper
4	oz	cream cheese, cubed (from 8 oz package)
8	oz	sour cream
¼	C	catsup (optional)
1	TBL	vermouth
6	C	hot noodles



Directions

In 12-inch skillet melt butter over medium high heat. Add Beef strips and cook for 7-9 minutes or until beef is browned.

Place browned beef and juices in crockpot, add 1 cup of beef broth, cover and cook on high for 2 ½ hours on high or, 5 hours on low. Wipe skillet clean and set aside.

After 2 ½ or 4 ½ hours, place 2 tablespoons of olive oil in skillet, add onion, garlic and fresh mushrooms and saute for 7-9 minutes. (If using canned mushrooms add directly to crockpot)

Set crockpot on low and add onions, garlic and mushrooms to crockpot.

Add cream of mushroom soup, salt, pepper, sour cream, cream cheese, catsup and ¼ cup beef broth to crockpot.

Stir until blended and set crockpot at 'keep warm' Serve over noodles.



A Thanksgiving poem



As a Realtor with years to my name,
 Twenty-two seasons, building my game.
 Hundreds of homes, each a unique tale,
 Helping dreams thrive, where hopes prevail.
 Thanksgiving warms my heart each year,
 A time for gratitude, for all I hold dear.
 From cozy kitchens to tables that glow,
 A reminder of love in the places we grow.
 At Christmas, homes wear their finest attire,
 Twinkling lights, and warmth by the fire.
 Blankets of snow lend a soft, pure grace,
 Hiding tired lawns, giving charm to the space.
 From first-time buyers to children grown,
 I've watched generations claim homes of their own.
 Clients become friends, their trust my delight,
 A partnership lasting far beyond the night.
 So this holiday season, my thanks to you,
 For the journey we've shared, for the dreams we've pursued.
 Here's to homes filled with laughter, love, and cheer,
 And the stories we'll build in the coming year.

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Advertise in the Ripples

To advertise your business or event in the *Lake Smith Ripples* newsletter contact:
 Doug Earlenbaugh at 757-761-5582 or dearlenbaugh@remax.net

The Lake Smith Ripples is published nine months of the year, September through May, and is **delivered to over 900 homes in our community**

- Business Card Ad** - \$20 per issue
- Quarter page** - \$40 per issue
- Half page** - \$80 per issue
- Full Page** – B&W - \$140 per issue,
 Color - \$160 per issue

Save! Pay for 8 ads and get the 9th one free!

Historically, the real estate market tends to slow in the month of December. Even though mortgage interest rates have been increasing, some buyers continue to search hoping to find the home of their dreams. That said, December may be an opportune time to place your home on the market. Citywide inventory is lower therefore, there is less competition.

Homes show beautifully when they are adorned with Christmas lights and Holiday decorations. And most importantly, the buyers who are out “shopping” this time of year are very serious and in need of a home!

Jean Bowman, Licensed in Virginia

Source: Real Estate Information Network (REIN)

**Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
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Wintery Words Search

Find and circle the words on the list ... Words may be found across, down or diagonally, forward, backwards and sometime overlapping



Z P X H X Q S C R Z X T D Q Q
M U U X I E Z E V S D E L S U
I I O Y T B T Z N X A K H C I
G Y D A C R E O S Z N C O U L
R W K F O F I R E P L A C E T
A S I F S T M S N P T J U Y L
T S M N A I M N A A D Z N O L
E O N C T D L O F W T V S D A
C G A T B E T W P L W E E Q B
W V E U V I R F C R A C L G W
G N S Y A D I L O H E N D D O
S L E I G H X A H M L T N K N
N A M W O N S K B U R F A E S
M V B S G U L E Y R N S I E L
E G E Z J P R B L A N K E T H

WORD LIST

BLANKET	COAT
COMFORTER	DECEMBER
FIREPLACE	FLANNEL
HEATER	HIBERNATE
HOLIDAYS	JACKET
MIGRATE	MITTENS
QUILT	SKATES
SLED	SLEIGH
SNOWBALL	SNOWMAN
SNOWFLAKE	VACATION
WINTER	

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LAKE SMITH TERRACE GARDEN CLUB

Our next meeting will be January 28, 2025

At Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd @ Ewell Rd
Social 6:30pm – Program 7:00p

Thanksgiving Holiday Centerpiece Workshop

The members of Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club held a workshop at their November 26 meeting just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday!

Members and guests paid \$25 to create their own Thanksgiving table centerpiece under the guidance of Allissa Bunner of Interstate 8 Floristry. All supplies were included.



Allissa Bunner, Interstate 8 Floristry



January 28, 2025 Program 6:30pm Social/7pm Program

Cult of the Tulip

With Norfolk Master Gardener
Chris Schweitzer

Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club's January program is titled "*Cult of the Tulip.*" Chris Schweitzer is our speaker and is a Norfolk Master Gardener. Guests are always welcome!



If you would like to visit our club and learn more about us, contact our President, Debbi Babashanian @ babdebbi@gmail.com.



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