

Lake Smith Ripples



Newsletter of the Lake Smith Terrace / Haygood Point / Governor Square - Civic League

March 2026

Volume 29 Issue 7



Cormorants at the Pond. Migrating Double Crested Cormorants stop by Haygood Point's Oliver's Pond each year in January and stay until late February. During this time, they fish the pond by diving from the surface of the water. Their presence attracts large numbers of sea gulls and occasional pelicans that try to separate the cormorants from their catch.



Civic League Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, 4 April, 10:00 A.M. Haygood Point Park

- 🐣 **1800 candy filled eggs** will be provided for egg hunters between **Ages 0-11 yrs.** (Some will have tokens for prizes inside).
- 🐣 **Egg hunting will be conducted simultaneously** in three separate age groups- ages 2 and below, 3-5 years and 6-11 years

- 🐣 **Egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:30**
- 🐣 Each child should **bring their own Easter basket** to gather eggs.
- 🐣 **Cupcakes and drinks will be provided**
- 🐣 **The Easter Bunny will be available for photos.**



Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, 17 March
Bayside Presbyterian Church

Social Period - 6:30 p.m.
Meeting called to order - 7:00 p.m.

Presentation

Virginia Beach
Parks and Recreation Department

Civic League Scholarship Deadline is 30 April

The Civic League will be awarding its annual scholarship to a deserving 2026 graduating high school senior in May. **This year's scholarship award will be \$1000.** Selection will be based on educational achievement, community involvement and communication skills.

The scholarship recipient will be announced at the May General Meeting. Visit our website (www.lhgl.org) to learn more about eligibility requirements, instructions, and application. Deadline for applications is 30 April 2026.



President's Corner

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

Daylight is getting longer every day. Many of you have made plans for your summer flowers and vegetables. It is always a good feeling to emerge from the cold weather months, and this year was exceptional – once again the groundhog got it right. Contrary to widespread belief, extreme cold does not reduce the summer's mosquito population. After all, mosquitos are the honorary state bird of Maine – a state with winters far worse than ours.

We had a good turnout at our February civic league meeting. The program topic was the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the presentation by Erica Ryder was very educational. Lots of questions followed and we may even have some folks interested in the volunteer opportunities at the refuge. Our Director of Programs, Jack Molovinsky, does an excellent job finding and reserving civic league meeting programs that appeal to our residents. Our March Civic League meeting will feature a presentation by the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Department. They do much more than just maintaining the neighborhood park and recreation center. Come to the meeting to learn all about the programs Parks & Rec offers - all while enjoying an hour with your neighbors. Looking ahead, the April meeting will feature a presentation by Colin Stolle, our Virginia Beach Commonwealth Attorney. In May we will learn about Summer Safety with a presentation by a team from the American Red Cross. Mark your calendars – we always meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

Trailers in the neighborhood are again becoming a problem. If you own a trailer, boat, utility or camper, it must be stored behind the front line of your house. If that does not work on your lot, then you need to find a storage location that is zoned commercial. This doesn't mean you can't have it in your driveway when you are using or cleaning it, but to be stored, it must be behind the front line of the residence. Commercial trailers cannot be stored in a residential neighborhood at any time – it's a zoning violation. The prevalent violation we are seeing is trailers parked in the roadway that are not attached to a vehicle. This becomes a police enforcement matter, and the trailer is subject to being tagged and towed.

Our ongoing traffic signal light issue at the intersection of Independence and Paul Revere continues to progress. The city is quite willing to spend \$1.1 million dollars to install the traffic signal and pedestrian crosswalks. We see this as a waste of money and, when complete, a detriment to our neighborhood by encouraging yet another route for cut-thru traffic on our residential streets. The entire issue of the Independence – Paul Revere / Wakefield turning vehicle traffic danger could be easily solved with a NO LEFT TURN sign on the Wakefield side – a solution that would cost a few hundred dollars at best. Our former city council representative, the late Louis Jones, saw this signal as unnecessary and the project stopped. Unfortunately, we lost Louis Jones and now Joash Schulman, our current District 9 council representative, and a resident of Thoroughgood, favors the traffic signal light and sided with VB Public Works to proceed. The mayor refused to wade into the issue. The other members of city council simply sat on their hands when Public Works presented the project. Watching the city spend \$1.1 million dollars on an unneeded project that will potentially cause harm to our neighborhood leads us to understand why we, and other neighborhoods, need to make better choices next November. See the article in this newsletter on page 11 regarding a Nominating Committee for Civic League Board positions. It is important and we need to do this.

Regards,

John Eason

**I told ya! 6 more
weeks**



How to Paint Door Hinges

This technique could be used to refinish hinges as in getting gloss brass hinges back up to the original color or to change the hinge color to better match a new paint. In addition to color there are options on flat or glossy paint style.

Materials needed for painting door hinges:

- Drill with bits and a screwdriver. Suggest using the screwdriver for the final tightening of screws to avoid stripping them in the wood.
- Hammer to get the hinge out
- Soap and water (and maybe some type of cleaning spray). I had to use a rust removal liquid for some in high moisture conditions that had rusted.
- Scrub brush
- Sandpaper (if the hinges are smooth and need to be “roughed up”)
- Spray Paint
- Some type of drop cloth, plastic, cardboard, wood, etc. as a pallet for spray painting

Removing the hinges:

If you DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE DOORS OFF THE HINGES, then you can do this in stages. Putting the door back on is a lot easier with two people. Below is one way and another I used was to take three hinges off the first door or two doors to get six hinges then finish those up and use them to replace other doors and keep that process going with the final step to get the first door hinges back in place. This can be an issue though if you find different hinges such as ones with square corners versus round ones.

1. First, remove (using a drill with a bit or a screwdriver) and paint all the top hinges, and then reinstall them.
2. Next, remove and paint all the **middle hinges** and then reinstall them.
3. Finally, remove and paint all the **bottom hinges** and then reinstall them. It will take a little extra time (maybe a few days) because of the drying time, but it was much easier than removing the doors.

Removing hinges in preparation for painting your door hinges:

I found removing the hinges as one piece with the pin in place was the easiest way to go. I tried painting with the pin removed and this was easier to get everything painted but you also need to paint the head of the pin to match. I ended up painting with the pin in place and found I had to do an extra paint coat to get the area around the pin fully painted but this was easier and avoided the work to take the pin out. Be careful not to strip the heads of each screw. You want to reuse these screws if possible.

Sand if the hinges are new or have a smooth surface:

If the hinges are relatively new or have a smooth surface, roughly sand them to create a more porous painting surface. This will help the paint stick.

Clean the hinges:

I used warm water and dish detergent to clean all the hinges; this will ensure the paint sticks. If your hinges are dirty, use a more abrasive cleaner to ensure a clean paint surface.

Layout the hinges:

I used a leftover piece of cardboard as my pallet.

Shake spray paint before painting the door hinges:

We used black flat spray paint. Be sure to read and follow the directions on the spray paint. Shake the can for several minutes to ensure the paint is evenly mixed in the can. There is a ball in the can so you should be able to hear the ball moving easily.

Spray painting the door hinges:

It is crucial to paint all the angles. As hinges open and close, different sections of the hinges are visible. It is very easy to miss a section (as I initially did). If you do miss a section, just remove and touch up -- no biggie!

Tips on spray painting:

- Hold several inches away from the hinges.
- As you spray paint, keep the can moving (i.e. don't concentrate in one spot so as not to have drips).
- It is better to spray paint several coats rather than apply the spray paint too heavily. Patience is the key!

Ensure all sections of each door hinge gets painted:

Lay them flat on one side and spray paint. Make sure you paint the edges. If you didn't take out the pin you can also stand them up to make sure to paint that section. Allow them to dry. Don't rush this process!

Ref Link <https://lifewithnealandsuz.com/how-to-paint-door-hinges/>



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“Spring” into the season and join our neighborhood Civic League! The \$20 annual household membership dues help to support the civic league that works on your behalf every day. Please show your support by sending in the completed form along with your \$20 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. A special “thank you” to all who have joined so far this year. It is greatly appreciated!

Civic League Membership Form – New or Renewal
(Please Print)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

(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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Festival (Picnic, Hayride & Pumpkin Patch)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments for Meetings & Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic League Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> You name it, I'll do it

Please mail your check to:

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

The following new and renewed civic league memberships were received and recorded between January 27, 2026, and February 23, 2026. Thank you for supporting your civic league. Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our society and it is the civic league that binds those blocks together. Memberships are through 2026 unless otherwise shown.

Disa Adams
Boyd & Betty Perry
Barry & Linda Brock
Margaret Crawford
Jimmy & Alison Creamer
Larry & Carolyn Eakin
John & Edi Eason (2029)
Ellen Jaffe & Spencer Gill
Mike & Paula Graham
Terry & Theresa Gray
Perry & Bennie Harrell (2027)
Sam Hribal (2027)
Larry & Missy Huggins
Jeff & Cindy Inman
Mike & Evonne Jaret (2027)
John & Carol Jarvis
Ken & Patricia Knight
Michael & Janess Lambiase
Terry & Serena Lucy

Bill & Victoria Marchand (2029)
Raquel Marin
Sarah & Bobby Moro (2027)
Tracy Nash & Marco Sifuentes (2027)
Andrea Nichols
Joanne Olson & William Nee
Gloria Wertz-Piacun (2027)
Curtis & Lenora Powell
Gay & Keane Robbins (2027)
Betty & Jack Rudiger
Joanne Sanderson
Lori & Terry Sellers
Vince & Colleen Shahayda
Renate Thurman
Nancy Traylor & Kelly Jackson
David & Alisa Velky
Constance Zuidema

For a small fee of \$20.00 you can treat the family to all of the great Civic League events.



Happy Saint Patrick's Day

Keeping our neighborhood safe is a collective responsibility

Driving to our civic league meeting at the Bayside Presbyterian Church from Haygood Point last month at 6:00PM, I had two close calls. The first was with a dog walker wearing dark clothing near the “duck crossing” on Five Forks Road. and the other was with a bicyclist on Ewell Road, also wearing dark clothing. Both were in the right lane. I didn’t see either one until I was very close to them and it got my heart rate up a little. I wasn’t on my phone or being distracted by adjusting the radio or any other control on the dashboard. Neither situation was dangerous I’m sure they didn’t even notice me driving by. The dog walker’s dog was on a leash. If the dog would have tried to run across the street in front of me there would have been a good chance of hitting it. I would have felt really bad hitting a dog. And, if the dog walker had been pulled in front of me by his pet and I hit both of them, I would have been devastated.

We will set our clocks ahead this month and the weather should begin to improve eventually making it perfect for getting outside after work and taking a walk around our great neighborhood. Please remember to wear light colored clothing that is easily visible to drivers.

When you go for a walk make sure to greet your neighbors. Your neighbors are your biggest allies in maintaining neighborhood security. If you know your neighbors, and they know you, they can be more attuned to noticing something that may be amiss around your

property. Your neighbors can take in any mail or packages that might attract unwanted attention to a vacant house when you go away on vacation.

Neighbors who know each other are more attuned to unusual activity, such as strangers, unfamiliar vehicles, or strange noises, allowing them to report issues before they escalate. A united, engaged community with active residents (known as "positive loitering") signals to potential criminals that the neighborhood is watched and protected. Building relationships fosters trust, making it easier to coordinate, look after each other's property during vacations, and enhances the sharing of security information.

Keeping a neighborhood safe is a collective responsibility, relying on "eyes on the street" to deter crime, build trust, and foster community resilience. Active participation—such as knowing neighbors, reporting suspicious activity, enhancing home security, and joining your civic league—creates a secure environment that law enforcement cannot achieve alone.

Last month at the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, Chief Neudigate presented the 2025 crime report for the city. Crime is on a notable decline over the last four years. One stat that stood out to me was that “theft from motor vehicles” was down for 2025 by almost 50%, a remarkable drop. Maybe the fact that we all heard that we should keep our vehicles locked so often is having results.



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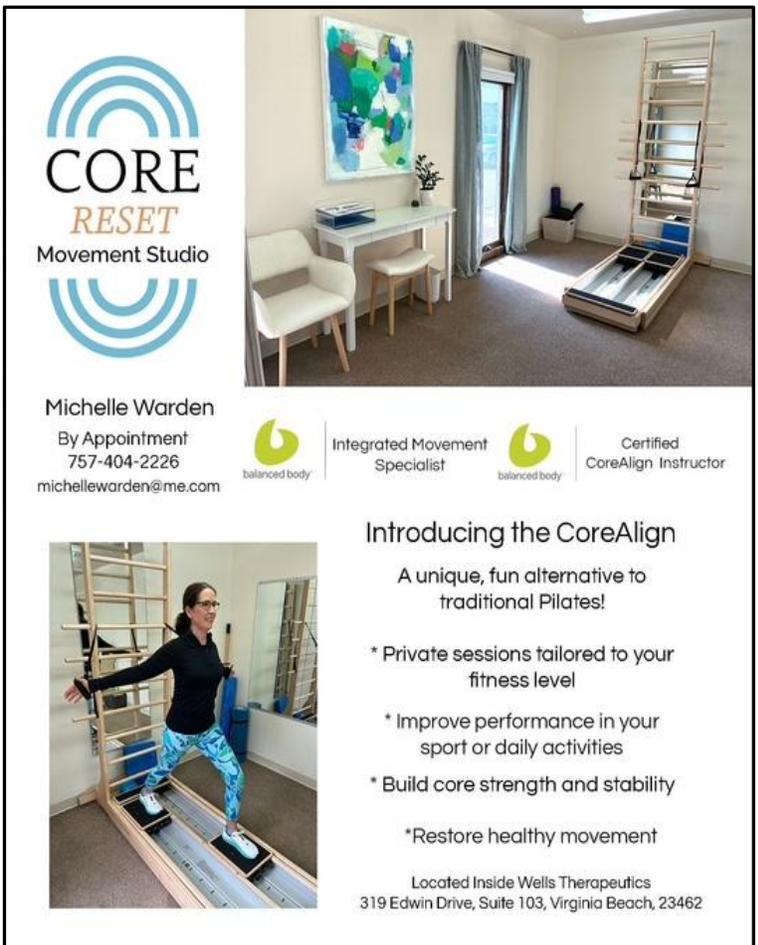
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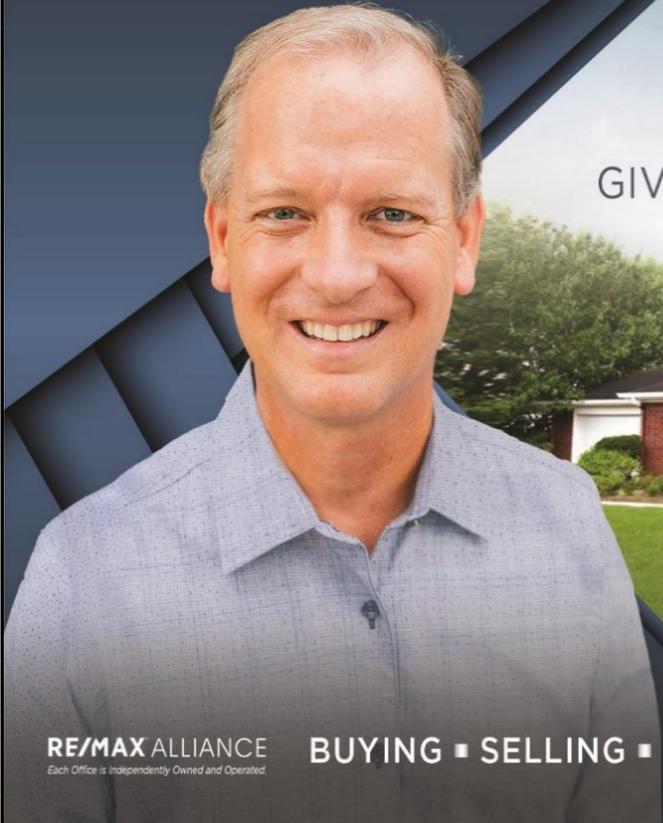
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According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, real estate is defined as the property consisting of buildings and land as well as the business of selling land and buildings.

However, the real estate process involves much more than simply bringing a buyer and seller together to transfer home ownership. Many unexpected circumstances can arise which can be a challenge. Here are a few examples:

- Your house does not appraise
- Your house fails the home inspection
- The buyer or seller changes their mind right before settlement
- The buyer's loan is denied
- The buyer's income changes (for example: Federal government furlough, job loss)
- The seller or buyer's mental ability changes and they are incapable of signing legal documents
- Final credit check before closing reveals identity theft or other unexpected credit issues and/or title issues

Complications arise but can be overcome with the appropriate professional assistance.

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No Activity

Presidents' Day February 16th

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Civic League Board of Directors Positions

Our civic league is looking to fill positions on the board of directors. Al Wallace, a longtime member and past president of this league, has agreed to chair a Nominating Committee tasked with recruiting candidates to fill board positions to be on board beginning in September. The eleven-member Civic League Board consists of five officers and six directors. The initial stage is to fill the Nominating Committee. Their task is to identify and recruit candidates willing to serve on the board. The objective is to have a complete slate of candidates ready to be presented and voted in during the May 19, 2026, Civic League Membership Meeting. If you are willing to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee, please contact Al Wallace at email alwallace@cox.net or phone 757-575-5027



LAKE SMITH TERRACE GARDEN CLUB

Our next meeting will be March 24, 2026

At Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd @ Ewell Rd

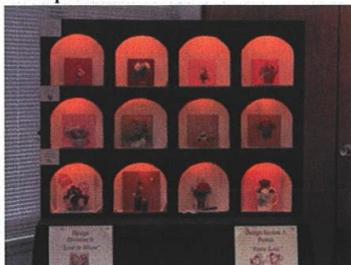
Social 6:30 pm – Program 7:00 pm

Love Is In The Air Flower Show



The members of Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club held a mini Flower Show co-chaired on Sunday, February 15, at Bayside Presbyterian Church. It was well attended with over 40 people coming to see to the show. We appreciate our friends, family, and neighbors who came out.

We had a mixture of design, horticulture and photography exhibits. This show was free and open to the public.



Happy 60th Anniversary! February 2026

Lake Smith Terrace Garden celebrated their 60th anniversary with a luncheon at Princess Anne Country Club.



Please consider joining us for our March 24 meeting! Our program is “*Get Creative with Pressed Flowers*” by Mary Hubbard.

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



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