

Lake Smith Ripples



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

May 2026

Volume 29 Issue 9



Blue Birds are hatching and they are hungry

(see Blue Bird info on page 3)



A great day for the Annual Civic League Easter Egg Hunt (See Page 2)



Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, 19 May
Bayside Presbyterian Church

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

Presentation

Summer Safety

By

The American Red Cross
(representative)

Neighborhood Cook-Out in the Park

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Haygood Point Neighborhood Park

Come join your neighbors for a cookout in the relaxed setting of our neighborhood park. The civic league will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, along with chips, soft drinks and water. All you need to bring is a chair if you are able. This is a free event for residents of Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point and Governor Squares communities. **Civic league membership is not required.**

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.**

Soon it will be what I can only describe as summer with a vengeance. The 90+ degree days with high humidity and biting mosquitoes are right around the corner. It is a good time to make sure your cooling system is serviced and ready for use. Don't forget to change those air filters.

The Easter Egg Hunt event in early April was very successful. The weather cooperated and the turnout of children was tremendous. The hunt for those 2,000 candy filled eggs was over in about ten minutes. Next year there needs to be 3,000 eggs. The special prizes were all claimed by children finding the eggs with gold coins. We are thankful for all those who worked to fill the eggs and "hide" them in the park. A special thanks goes out to KC Cook, our outstanding Easter Bunny.

This year, we will be having a spring cookout in the park on Sunday, May 17th from 12:30 PM to 2:20 PM. This time here will not be a big tent, inflatables, petting zoo, face painters, fire trucks, or Blue Angel flyovers – just good fellowship and good food. Come out and have an enjoyable time with your friends and neighbors in the relaxed setting of our neighborhood park. Details are on the front page.

Our final Civic League meeting before the summer break will be on Tuesday, May 19th. This month the featured speaker will be from the American Red Cross, and the topic is Summer Safety. No matter how many summers you have lived through, I suspect you can still learn something at this meeting. This is also the meeting that we award our annual scholarship to a deserving high school senior going on to higher education. Our scholarship committee will review the submitted applications and ultimately select a single winner. That is not an easy task in a neighborhood with so many outstanding young people. Put the date on your calendar to come out and spend an hour with your friends and neighbors. You won't be disappointed.

The main outstanding issue for the summer is the pending traffic signal installation at the Independence – Paul Revere intersection. We believe the light is a \$1.1M waste of money that will ultimately cause harm to our neighborhood through the introduction of increased cut-through traffic. This is not only a safety issue - it is a quality-of-life issue. The project was shelved by the urging of the late Vice Mayor Louis Jones. His replacement, a Thoroughgood resident, brought it back to life. We, and our friends in the Northwest Beach Partnership, need to make a better choice at the polls in November.

This will be the final edition of the Ripples before the summer break. Each year, we publish a monthly newsletter from September to May. Editions are commercially printed and hand delivered to each of the 905 homes in our great neighborhood. I hope you find the newsletter useful, and that you receive each edition - usually by the fifth day of the month. If you ever encounter a problem with delivery, please contact your neighborhood watch block captain.

I pray everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

John Eason

Repairing Wood Patio Furniture



My stain preference for use on wood furniture is penetrating oil-based stain, and I just reapply it once a year to minimize the need for repairs. As a penetrating stain soaks in instead of being a surface application like paint there is no need to sand or scrape it off when refinishing. I am not a big fan of the yearly need to reapply stain, but it beats having to sand it down every couple of years to refinish. If a non-penetrating stain or paint has already been applied to the furniture you will need to stick with it and may need to do some sanding after cleaning before recoating.

When you stain or paint ensure full coverage on top and bottom including the bottom of the legs where standing water can penetrate. When using penetrating oil stains on chairs make sure applications are totally dry by testing them with a rag or paper towel before allowing people to sit on them.

In addition to the stain or paint, wood furniture pieces often have joints that loosen up and should be repaired as soon as possible to avoid deterioration and breakage. Gently force the loose joint out while monitoring any joints that are also impacted by opening the first joint. Once you get the joint separated you can apply a glue like Titebond III and ensure adequate coverage by using a small disposable paint brush. If you have two loose joints on the piece of wood you are working on you will need to glue both joints at the same time. After applying the glue, push the joints together and apply a clamp to the assembly. After clamping use a wet rag or paper towel to clean off any excessive glue. The key to these repairs is to do them as soon as the furniture joints become loose, before force results in breakage causing you to purchase a new set of chairs or accept mismatched pieces



**Be
a
Bird
Feeder**



In the March 2020 issue of the *Lake Smith Ripples* we ran a column on the declining population of Eastern Bluebirds. and included diagrams and instructions on how to build a Bluebird house. Thanks to several of our neighbors that took the effort to build and monitor the featured house the birds have become increasingly prominent in our neighborhood, and their population has increased substantially. Bluebird nesting season ranges from March to August in which time they will raise from 1 to 3 broods. First broods have hatched and they are hungry with voracious appetites. If you would like to help feed the birds the bluebird cage feeder with 1 ¾ X 1 ¾ wire mesh opening is the best option. The opening in the mesh is large enough for the bluebirds but keeps squirrels and large birds out. Their preferred diet to eat and feed their broods while nesting are mealworms, alive or dried. KAYTEE Dried Mealworms can be purchased in the garden section of Lowes and Home Depot and are also available at military commissaries. The birds will also eat from window feeders providing the opportunity to see them up close.

If you would like to build a birdhouse, diagrams and specification are in the March 2020 issue of the *L.S. Ripples*. All current and past issues of the *Lake Smith Ripples* can be found on our website at www.LHGCL.org



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Hello Neighbors,

Our annual membership drive is underway and we need your support! For a modest fee of \$20 per household per year, you and your family can be members of the civic league. The annual dues help to keep your neighborhood civic league up and running. Our fiscal year runs from January 1-December 31st. Please show your support by sending in the completed membership application along with your \$20 annual dues made out to the LST/HP/GS Civic League.

Membership entitles you and your household to participate in our many neighborhood events. Below are some of the services we provide to our members:

- Monthly membership meetings with guest speakers (September-May)
- Supports a Certified Neighborhood Watch Program
- Publishes and hand-delivers the Lake Smith Ripples
- Maintains the civic league website (www.LHGCL.org)
- Provides email broadcasts to members regarding safety, lost pets, and other areas of concern or interest
- Plans our annual social events-Fall Festival, Christmas Dinner, Easter Egg Hunt, and Neighborhood Cookout

Our civic league is very active and one of the best in Virginia Beach because of the strength of our membership. Please take a moment and join today!

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)

<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

The following new and renewed civic league memberships were received and recorded between March 25, 2026, and April 26, 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 as a community. Memberships are through 2026 unless otherwise shown.

Mike & Kristina Allen
 Ray & Kathy Beck
 Laura Armstrong-Brauer & Chris Brauer
 Amanda & Greg Bowlin
 Peter Cook (2027)
 Sean, Kate & Reagan Dinneen
 Doug & Megan Earlenbaugh
 Nancy Fetzer & Morgan Weber
 Lauren Fuller
 Bobby & Kristal Gilliland
 Josh & Kristy Grieve
 Kendell & Daniel Griffin
 Robert & Carrie Gurnee (2027)
 Jason Heath

Edie & John Heinbockel
 Kyle & Kelsey Honness
 Josh & Jennifer Jarvis
 Matt & Jessica Jones
 Doug & Alex Kinloch & Tracy
 Meeks (2027)
 Paul & Chelsea Lamb
 Courtney & Jeremy Latsch
 Marshall Long
 Elizabeth Mann
 MacKenzie & Daniel Mizelle
 Steven & Katelyn Matthews (2027)
 Katherine & Brian McCullough
 Michael Nanney
 Joseph O'Toole

Randy & Georgia Owens (2027)
 Kenneth & Lynne Pearson
 James Pierce
 Karisa & Whitney Powell
 Robyn & Gregory Powell
 Mike Quarg
 Marilola Ramdeholl
 Eric Robinson
 Stafford Family (2030)
 Neal & Alie Stava
 Caroline Strickland
 Ben & Katy Taylor
 Traute Theisz (2029)
 Melba & Robert Windland

After our community has been virtually crime free for the past year but we had several vehicles broken into just this past month. With quick action by neighbors and our police

one male was arrested and a warrant was issued for his abettor. These are the first vehicle break-ins in our neighborhood in a long time. If everyone keeps their vehicles locked, criminals will move on to other areas. As long as their efforts are fruitful, they will keep coming back. Keep your doors locked and anything of value out of sight.

Be aware that the speed limit everywhere in our community is 25 miles per hour. Watch your speed as we will be asking the VBPD to monitor speeds in our community this summer. As temperatures across the country rise, so to do the number of deaths of children left or trapped inside sweltering automobiles. The inside of a car on a hot day heats up incredibly high and quickly. In a short time, temperatures of 120 to 140 degrees can occur. The heat overwhelms a their ability to regulate his core temperature and the child quickly loses consciousness.

Our community National Night Out has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2026. National Night Out is a community-police partnership that aims to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, neighborhood watch, and other anti-crime efforts. Initially, communities held lights-on vigils. Now the focus of National Night Out is to bring neighbors and communities together. with block parties, and various other events on National Night Out.

The Haygood Point, Lake Smith Terrace, Governor Square community celebrates National Night Out by having several events throughout the neighborhood. Everyone is

encouraged to participate by having an event or attending one that is nearby. An event can be just gathering your immediate neighbors in your driveway or expanding your invitations to more areas near you. Last year a couple of our events had 40+ people and others had 10 or so.

A cookout and a potluck are fun but the most enjoyable part is meeting your neighbors face to face. The police officers from the 3 rd . Precinct try to visit as many events as they can. As we get closer to August I will post locations of National Night Events in our area on the Civic League web site, www.lhgcl.org. If you want more information on having an event contact me [sanhri@verizon.net](mailto:samhri@verizon.net).

Have a safe and crime free summer.





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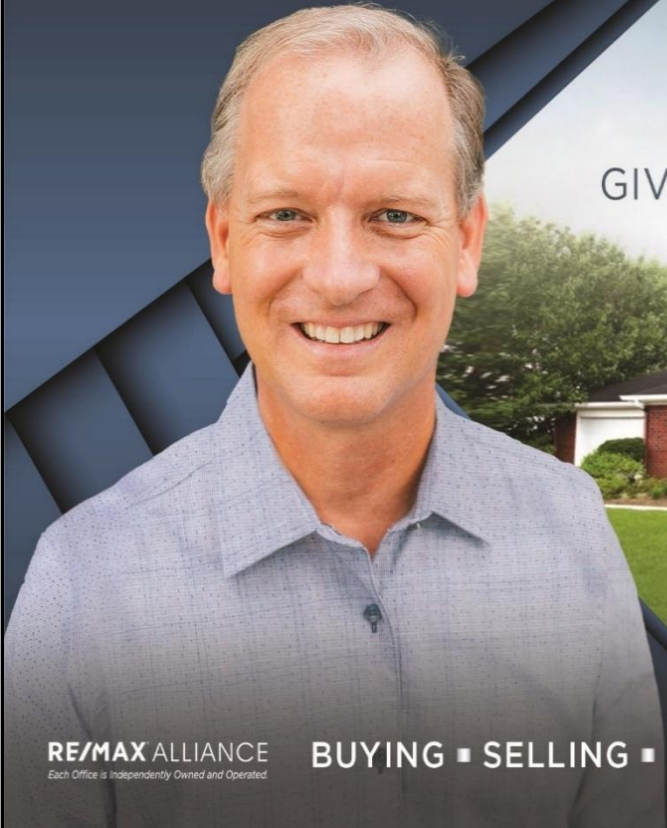
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In these ever-changing times, "Safety" concerns are becoming a factor in our everyday lives. Whether we are going shopping at the mall, dining out, or just relaxing in our own homes, we have been informed to be more aware of our surroundings and report any "suspicious" person(s) or activity.

In the real estate market, safety is also a concern, not only for the real estate professionals, but also for homeowners as they put their properties on the market.

Safety Tips:

- Secure Valuables in a safe place (cash, jewelry, medication, guns)
- Remove keys, credit cards, driver's license or other forms of identification
- Lock down your computer and lock up other electronic equipment (laptop, iPod, etc.)
- Do not leave personal information...mail and bills out in the open
- Do not show your home yourself...all inquiries need to go through your real estate agent

There are numerous "scams" currently and it is always important to verify and properly identify who we are working with and be as safe as possible.

To help to protect yourself, discuss all of your safety concerns with your Real Estate Professional

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*Sunday
May 10th*

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Memorial Day-
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This Memorial Day, we pause to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Their courage and selflessness are the foundation of the freedoms we enjoy today. As a small tribute to their legacy, I will be lining our community streets with 300 American flags. As you see them waving throughout the neighborhood, I hope they serve as a beautiful reminder of the heroes we remember this weekend. Wishing you and your family a meaningful and reflective Memorial Day.



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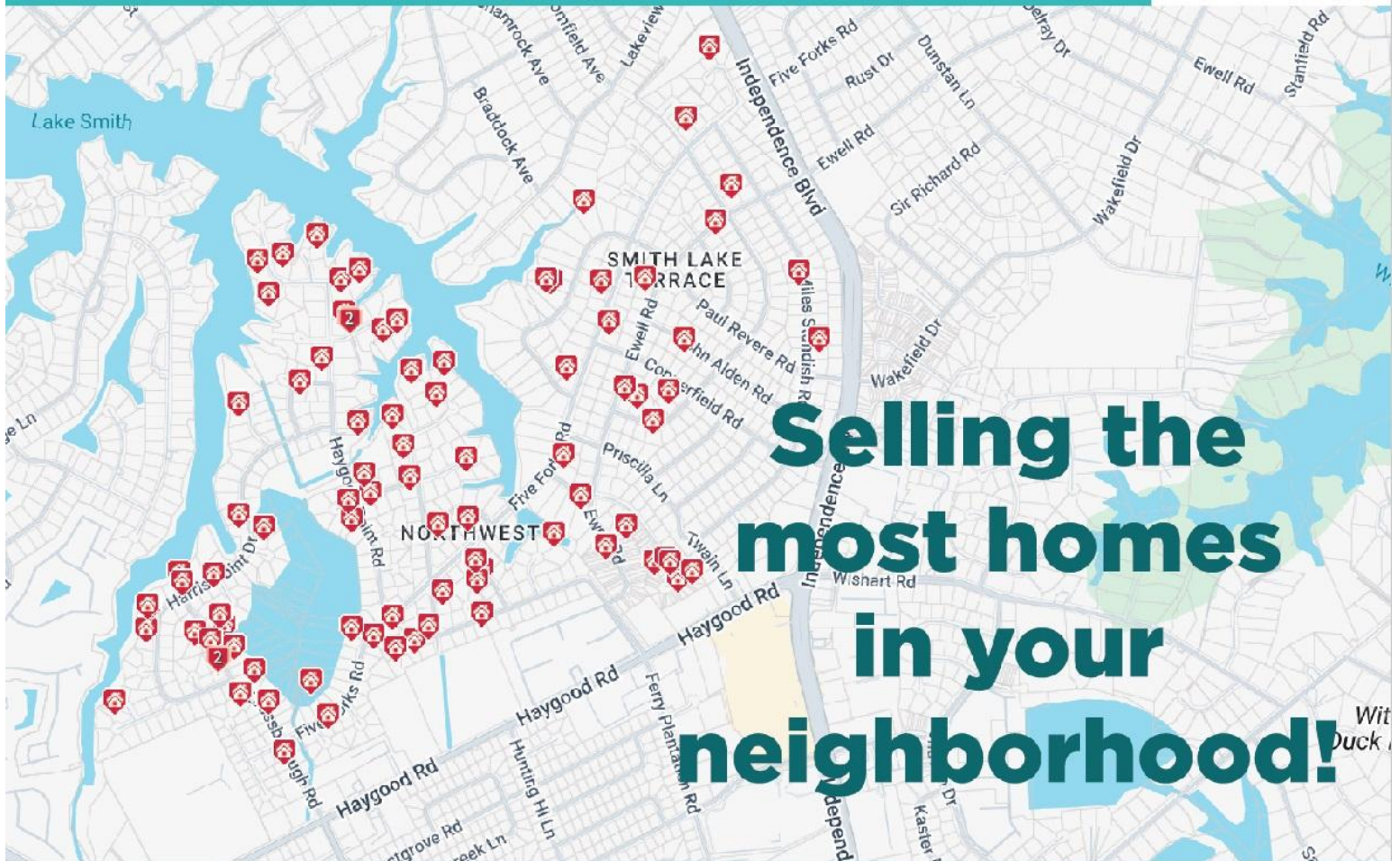
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