



Lake Smith Ripples

SPEED
LIMIT
25



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

September 2026

Volume 30 Issue 1



Homeowner pride. Two neighborhood homes with beautiful homeowner - maintained flower gardens. Another reason why this is a great place to live.

Russell Baker Awarded Annual Civic League Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of those participating in 50/50 raffles at its general meetings and events the Civic League has been able to confer college scholarships to deserving high school graduates every year since 2012. This year's \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Russell Baker of Princess Anne High School. Russel has been active in teaching leadership skills through games, skills and other activities to elementary students and has also participated in a program focused on environmental issues including the impact of overharvesting the Chesapeake Bay.

Russell was a member of the Princess Anne band, a four year member of the baseball team (chosen as captain), and played on the school's golf team for two years. He will be attending the University of Alabama to study Business and Spanish before pursuing his goal of attending law school.

Congratulations Russell!

School Board member Carolyn Weems and Civic League Scholarship Committee Chair Theresa Gray presented the scholarship to Russell.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Please be watchful for children playing at and around bus stops and always observe the 25-mph speed limit in our neighborhoods.



Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, 15 September
Bayside Presbyterian Church

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

Presentation by
Colin Stole
Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney

Members are also invited to attend the following forums to be held at Bayside Presbyterian Church:

Monday, 14 September – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., District 9 School Board Forum, Candidates (Berman & Weems)
Sponsored by the Lakeview Shores Civic League

Thursday, 24 September – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. District 9 City Council Forum, Candidates (Moss & Shulman)
Sponsored by the Thoroughgood Civic League

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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1st Vice President:	Sam Hribal, 757 232-3018 samhri@verizon.net
2nd Vice President:	
Treasurer:	
Secretary:	Ed Douglas ed0236@verizon.net
Hospitality:	Edi Eason, 757 473-3458 edieason@verizon.net
Membership:	Jean Bowman, 757 286-7455 jean@bowmanrealtyva.com
NWBP/VBCCO REP:	Megan Earlenbaugh earlenbaughm@gmail.com
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Newsletter deadline: 25th of the month prior to month of publication.

Welcome Back! I trust everyone has survived the summer months and are ready to enjoy the soon to be cooler Fall season. Your civic league, while appearing inactive during the June to August period, has been monitoring conditions and events that affect our residents. We have also continued to make plans for events and activities for the coming months. Our next Civic League meeting is on September 15th and will feature a presentation by Mr. Colin Stolle, Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney. Please mark it on your calendar and come to the meeting. We are a fun group. Our meetings are always on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May in the Fellowship Hall at Bayside Presbyterian Church. Jack Molovinsky, our program director, has some good presentations lined up in the coming months.

While we are looking ahead, the Civic League's Fall Festival event is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th. Each year this is a well-attended fun-filled family event. Civic league events are free and open to all civic league members. If you haven't joined yet, our annual dues are still an affordable \$20 per household. It's the best deal in town. See the membership form in this newsletter.

Are you interested in having a Fall community yard sale? If there are enough households willing to participate, the Civic League will sponsor and advertise the sale on a weekend in October or early November. Let me know if interested – email president@lhgcl.org.

Have you noticed an increased number of electric bikes and scooters being driven by young people on the neighborhood streets? Parents need to ensure their children are taught and obey rules of the road before allowing them out on an electric powered vehicle. Those rules are the same for bikes as they are for automobiles. We recently learned of a near miss when two children on fast e-bikes ran the stop sign at the intersection of Harris Point and Haygood Point. Only the quick action of an alert resident driving on Haygood Point prevented what could have been a major tragedy. Children learn through repetition – don't tell them once and send them out onto the streets. We never want to have a tragic accident that cannot be undone. Also, if these bikes do not have working lights, they should not be on the streets after dark.

An important role of any civic league is to improve and protect residents' quality of life. We fulfill this responsibility by supporting or opposing outside actions that could affect the neighborhood. For years, we have strongly opposed the city's plan to install a traffic light at the intersection of Independence Boulevard and Paul Revere Road. We believe it would encourage more cut-through traffic, back up traffic on Independence Boulevard making access more difficult for our residents who live along that loop, and increase rear-end collisions because three traffic lights would be located within a short distance. The late Louis Jones recognized these concerns and stopped the project. After his death, however, our current City Council representative lifted the hold and allowed the \$1.1 million project to proceed. We remain opposed to this waste of tax-payers money that we believe will damage our residents' quality of life. More to come.

It's election season. Become informed voters. Come to the city council and school board candidate forums hosted by the Thoroughgood Civic League and the Lakeview Shores Civic League. [See the front page for details.](#)

John Eason

How to Clean Your A/C Drain Line with Vinegar

Keeping your air conditioner in top shape isn't just about cool air, it's about long-term performance and avoiding costly repairs. One key maintenance task that often gets overlooked? Cleaning the AC drain line. Over time, mold, algae, and debris can clog this line, leading to water damage and reduced efficiency.

The good news: you can clean it easily with a household staple—white vinegar

Why Vinegar Works

Vinegar is a safe, natural alternative to chemical cleaners. Here's why it's a smart choice:

- **Breaks Down Gunk:** Its acidity dissolves buildup inside the drain line.
- **Fights Mold & Bacteria:** Vinegar's antimicrobial properties help eliminate odors and prevent growth.
- **Eco-Friendly & Affordable:** No harsh chemicals, no big expense—just clean, green maintenance.

What You'll Need

- White vinegar
- Water
- A bucket or container
- Funnel (optional)
- Wet/dry vacuum (optional)



Step-by-Step Instructions

1. **Power Down Your AC** Safety first—turn off your AC system before starting.
2. **Find the Drain Line** Look for a PVC pipe near the indoor unit or condensate pan.
3. **Mix Your Cleaning Solution** Combine equal parts white vinegar (1/4 cup to 1/2 cup) and water (1/4 cup to 1/2 cup). For stubborn clogs, use more vinegar.
4. **Pour It In** Use a funnel if needed. Slowly pour the solution into the drain line and let it sit for 30 minutes.
5. **Flush the Line** Rinse with clean water (2 to 4 cups) or use a wet/dry vacuum to remove loosened debris. Repeat until the water runs clear.
6. **Restart Your AC** Once everything's clean, wait 5 minutes and power your system back on and enjoy improved performance.

We recommend doing this at least twice a year, Spring and Fall.

Keep It Cool with Regular Maintenance

Doing this once a year—or more often if needed—can help your AC run smoother, smell fresher, and last longer. Whether you're in Houston or anywhere with hot summers, this simple vinegar trick is a smart way to stay ahead of AC issues.

Ref: <https://championtruevaluehardware.com/how-to-safely-use-vinegar-for-ac-drain-line-cleaning>

Virginia Beach Yard Debris Collection Policy

As Fall approaches winds from tropical storms and preparations for lawn reseeded tend to increase the quantity of yard debris for weekly trash collection. The following information is provided to remind residents of the city's Yard Debris Collection Policy

Yard Debris Collection

This service is provided by the city on your normal collection day, and does not require a work order. Residents may place yard debris at curbside for collection as follows:

- Limbs up to 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter will be collected in piles not to exceed 4 x 4 x 4 feet. (On heavy trash days crews may limit this to 2 piles)
- You may also dispose of smaller yard debris, such as grass and leaves (no dirt, rocks, mulch or root balls) in **up to 25 clear plastic bags**, not more than 25 lbs. per bag.
- Tree removal debris is not collected at the curbside. However, it can be collected through the **yard debris container program**, provided each piece is no larger than 6 inches in diameter

Please note that any work done by private contractors must be disposed of by the contractor.

Residents are urged to place yard debris, as well as waste and recycle containers, outside of the drainage flow line (a few inches away from the curb) to keep the drainage flow line clear and avoid neighborhood flooding. **Mulch mowing leaves and grass clippings is recommended** instead of bagging and dragging them to the curb!

Yard Debris Container Program

For larger amounts of yard debris, roll-off containers are available on a first come, first-serve basis. There is a fee for this service: **\$50 weekdays and \$150 for weekends**

- The container measures 13 X 7 X 5 feet
- The container is to be used for tree limbs less than 6 inches in diameter, leaves, shrubbery and grass trimmings from normal upkeep of your property
- No clear plastic bags in the container
- You may schedule the container for a day with a.m. or p.m. delivery available. However, trailers delivered on Friday will be picked up on Monday.
- Someone at least 18 years old must sign for the trailer when delivered but need not be home for pick-up.
- Please note that the landfill does not accept tree removal debris over 6 inches in diameter
- Please call **757-385-4650** well in advance if you wish to schedule a container. This service is not available online.

Source: www.Vbgov.com website

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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.

- Monthly membership meetings with guest speakers (September-May)
- Supports a Certified Neighborhood Watch Program
- Publishes and hand-delivers the Lake Smith Ripples
- Maintains 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 Hayride & Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Dinner and Easter Egg Hunt

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)

Please mail your check to:

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

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 ☐ Christmas Dinner ☐ Community Maintenance ☐ Civic League Board of Directors	☐ Easter Egg Hunt ☐ Fall Festival (Picnic, Hayride & Pumpkin Patch) ☐ Refreshments for Meetings & Events ☐ You name it, I'll do it
--	---

The Calaman Family
Betty Given
David & Christina Morrow
Traute Theisz (2030)
Your Name



Hey! Your name would look great on this list. Sign up to be a member and we'll get you on it next month.

Rain stops for National Night Out Events

Our crime rate is very low because everyone works to keep our community safe by watching out for our neighbors and their property. One of the things that we do to improve relationships with our neighbors is the National Night Out events that are held throughout the community every year on the first Tuesday in August.

We celebrate National Night Out by having several get-togethers throughout our community. Some neighbors have snacks and drinks and others just gather on a corner or in a driveway and enjoy each other's company. Last year there were about a dozen individual neighbors that hosted a National Night Out gathering. Everyone that I have talked with over the years said that they were glad that they attended and were looking forward to the next one. It's a good time to catch up on local gossip with your neighbors that you only occasionally see. Also, members of the VBPD 3rd Precinct and other city officials visit as many locations as they can. If you want to host one for the first time, it can be anything that you want it to be. Consider hosting one for your neighbors next year.

Eight of our neighbors hosted National Night events this year. The rain and the Primary Elections seemed to hold down attendance somewhat but everyone that attended had an enjoyable time. If you didn't attend one, try to make it next August. You can meet your neighbors and some of the police officers that stop by. This year we had twelve or fifteen police officers, Animal Control and Commonwealth Attorney's personnel making the rounds of our events.

A special Thank You to this year's National Night Out hosts:

Theresa Gray on Chippendale Court
Heather Brinkman on Crossborough Road
James Dean on E. Chippenham Road
Beth Toone on Moultrie Circle
Tracie Silva on Haygood Point Road
Carolyn Walsh on Five Forks Road
Wayne Middleton on Copperfield Road
Hannah Bocks on Five Forks Road.

National Night Out is a community event. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

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 monthly nine months of the year, September through May and is **delivered to over 900 homes in our community** (Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point and Governor Square)

Rates

Business Card - \$20 per issue

Quarter Page - \$40 per issue

Double width Business Card Banner - \$40 per issue

Half Page - \$80 per issue

Full Page - B & W - \$140, Color \$160 per issue*

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It has been a very interesting year in the real estate market! Inventory has been increasing and there are more homes on the market in comparison to the beginning of the year. Home prices have reset slightly and are taking longer to sell!

Let's take a look back and see how the real estate market fared in the City of Virginia Beach. Below is a "snapshot" of housing statistics for the year beginning with January 2026:

Current Inventory: 1219 detached and attached properties (higher than the same time last year)

Pending: 406 properties are under contract and preparing to close

Sold: 3975 properties have sold to date this year (higher than same time last year)

Below are the price ranges and approximate number of the homes SOLD:

0-\$100,000	2
\$101,000-\$200,000	88
\$201,000-\$300,000	651
\$301,000-\$400,000	1136
\$401,000-\$500,000	736
\$501,000-\$600,000	434
\$601,000-\$700,000	258
\$701,000-\$800,000	155
\$801,000-\$900,000	121
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	83
\$1,001,000-\$2,000,000	252
\$2,001,000-\$3,000,000	37
\$3,001,000+	22

The lowest price sold since January was \$100,000 and the highest price was \$7,250,000.

Future prices will be determined by the "supply and demand" as well as values of homes "SOLD" within the past 12 months.

Source (REIN) Real Estate Information Network

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**Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since March 2026**



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

For Sale

1137 Revere Pt Rd
916 Five Forks Rd
1337 Five forks Rd
4633 Miles Standish Rd
1001 Five Forks Rd

HAYGOOD POINT

Pending

797 Harris Point Dr

Sold

725 Harris Point Dr

Pending

4652 Miles Standish Rd
4713 Little John Rd

Sold

4617 Twain Lane
1020 Miles Standish Rd
4708 Five Forks Circle

GOVERNOR SQUARE

No Activity

The peak of the Atlantic Hurricane Season is 10 September. Most storms affect our area between early September and late October. If you haven't done it yet, now is a good time to review your insurance policy.

Floods are not covered. It doesn't matter if water comes from a hurricane, a burst dam or a freak rainstorm. To purchase flood protection, you need a separate policy, typically through the government's FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

Don't wait until the storm track looks like it might include us. Know that there is a 30-day waiting period before a new flood policy kicks in. NFIP coverage tops out at \$250,000 for your home structure and \$100,000 for its contents; if you need more ask about excess flood coverage from a private carrier.

Your homeowner's policy covers wind damage such as torn off roofs, shattered windows and storm driven debris but it doesn't cover flooding that often follows a storm, as we learned in October of 2016 when our streets were flooded resulting in damage to some homes and vehicles.

So, take a look at your existing policy now. Review the key elements like your deductibles, your limits and what disasters are named in our policy. Your payout limits are only as good as your coverage and unfortunately, repair and replacement costs are continuing to climb. So - *be prepared*.

Source: Jill Schlesinger, Work and Money, Review Your Home Owners' Policy Now, Virginian-Pilot 9 August 2026

Is Reading Good for the Brain?



Adults stress the importance of reading to young children but may sometimes have difficulty following their own advice, perhaps due to a lack of time to read themselves. However, reading is extremely beneficial to cognitive health because it engages memory and attention centers in the brain while reducing stress. According to a recent Yale study, reading can also improve longevity.

The study analyzed data from 3,635 participants of the Health and Retirement Study, sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. All participants were over the age of 50 and reported their reading habits for twelve years. The participants were broken into three groups based on these self-reports: those who did not read books, those who read for up to 3.5 hours per week, and those who read for more than 3.5 hours per week.

After accounting for variables such as age, sex, education level and more, the research group determined that the group who read for up to 3.5 hours every week had a 17% decreased risk of mortality versus those who did not read at all. Similarly, the group that read over 3.5 hours every week had a 23% decreased risk of mortality compared to the group that didn't read at all.

The study also found that individuals who read magazines and newspapers had increased longevity

over non-readers, but these effects were less significant than those that read books. The research team attributed this to the fact that books typically engage the brain for longer periods of time.

In order to engage your brain to the fullest while reading, alternate between fiction and nonfiction, try different genres or pick up books about new topics you want to explore. Try reading for 15 minutes before bed – reading can be a great way to help one de-stress before bed, resulting in a better night's sleep.

If you haven't been reading consistently in quite some time, start slowly and build up your new reading routine over a period of several months. Like weight loss, it takes time to establish a new pattern and form new habits to exercise your mind. Be patient; pick up a good book; and stick with it!

Sources:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953616303689>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/reading-books-increases-lifespan-new-study-finds-2399733>

<http://sixtyandme.com/could-reading-be-the-best-anti-aging-secret/>

<http://www.bustle.com/articles/145922-6-scientific-reasons-reading-is-amazing-for-your-health>

A need to read !



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SEPTEMBER

coffee spice

- SCRUB - ♥



schedule a

60 MIN MASSAGE

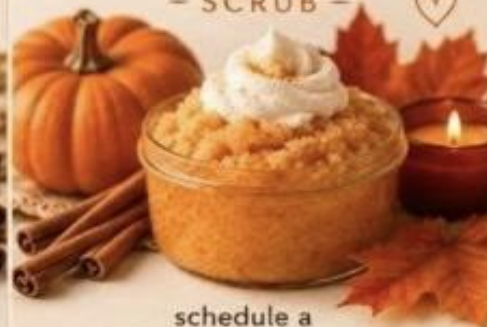
- free foot scrub -

\$70

OCTOBER

pumpkin spice

- SCRUB - ♥



schedule a

60 MIN MASSAGE

- free foot scrub -

\$70

NOVEMBER

apple pie

- SCRUB - ♥



schedule a

60 MIN MASSAGE

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BOOK YOUR
APPOINTMENT
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Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club presents

Monster Pots & Storytime Event

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9:30am-11:30am

Haygood Point Park

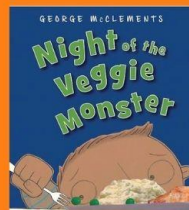
4775 Haygood Point Road

Virginia Beach

Bring your child to paint their own monster pot, then plant their own seeds to take home. While their paint dries, join us for storytime!



Free and open to all ages!
Please RSVP by 10/12
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