

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

February 2025

Volume 28, Issue 6



Say NO, to the proposed stoplight installation at Independence Blvd. and Paul Revere Rd. /Wakefield Dr.

Civic League Scholarship Deadline is 30 April

The Civic League will be awarding its annual scholarship to a deserving 2025 graduating high school senior in May. **This year's scholarship has been increased to \$1500**. 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.lhgcl.org) to learn more about eligibility requirements, instructions, and application. Deadline for applications is 30 April 2025.



Civic League Meeting

Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Bayside Presbyterian Church

1400 Ewell Rd

Social period: 6:30 - 7:00 Call to order 7:00

Presentation
Jump-starting Your Garden

By

Virgina Beach Master Gardeners

Bring a handmade valentine to the 18 February Civic League meeting and compete for a cash prize.

1st place winner \$75.00
2nd place winner \$50.00
3rd place winner \$25.00

(Maximum size of entry is 8.5" X 11.0")

The purpose of the LST/HP/GS Civic League is to promote the quality of life of the residents; to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of community interest; to convey information on issues affecting the community; to provide social opportunities as a means of enhancing community pride and identity, and to maintain the community as a desirable place to live.

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

Last month we had a good taste of winter. Was that enough, or does everyone want more? Stay tuned for the best may be yet to come.

We had an excellent Civic League membership meeting in January with a good turnout. The presentation on the First Landing State Park was highly informative. I believe everyone in attendance gained a better understanding of the attributes and services available at the park. We even had one person sign up to be a park volunteer this year. I hear he wants to wear one of those Smokey the Bear hats. The February meeting should also be one you don't want to miss. With spring on the distant horizon, a presentation on jump-starting your garden by a member of the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners will surely pique everyone's interest. So, mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 18th and come enjoy an hour with your friends at the meeting. Bring a handmade valentine and compete for a cash prize. Full meeting details are on the front page.

I recently had a conversation with David Rosenthal from the City of Norfolk. He is the reservoir manager responsible for Lake Smith. As you may know, the City of Norfolk owns Lake Smith. It is part of the regional water reservoir system. Norfolk also owns approximately ten feet of the shoreline surrounding the lake. It is not an easement, but rather outright ownership. Residents (homeowners or renters) in homes that border Lake Smith should be aware of the land ownership by the City of Norfolk. Within that ten-foot buffer, any tree trimming / removal or altering of shrubbery must be approved in advance by the reservoir manager. Failure to comply with the rules could result in a substantial fine. If you have any questions about the regulations regarding the lakefront, contact the Norfolk Reservoir Manager at 757-441-5678.

Our civic league has a great website that has been constructed and maintained by webmaster Don Krudop. If you haven't browsed it lately, do so when you have a chance. The website is <u>www.LHGCL.org</u>. The site is constantly being upgraded, so check back often.

We are currently in need of a person to take on the role of Civic League Secretary. This is an officer position that is a full member of the civic league's board of directors. The primary responsibilities include recording and publishing minutes at membership meetings and board meetings. If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact me at 757-642-4844.

The information meeting scheduled for January 22, 2025, that was to be a presentation by Virginia Beach Public Works on their revised justification for a traffic signal at the Wakefield / Paul Revere – Independence intersection was cancelled due to the weather. As this newsletter goes to press, the meeting has not been rescheduled. I know many of you have contacted me to express readiness to attend the meeting when it is rescheduled to express opposition to the installation of the traffic signal. The civic league membership and the board voted to oppose the traffic signal more than three years ago. We have always viewed the signal as being a convenience for Thoroughgood and being detrimental to our neighborhood.

When scheduled, I will advise the new meeting date via an email broadcast, and we will put it on our website. The traffic engineer seems committed to moving forward with spending the better part of a million dollars rather than trying less expensive alternatives as prescribed by U.S. Government guidelines. A two hundred dollar "RIGHT TURN ONLY" sign placed on Wakefield at the intersection with Independence would go a long way in removing the inherent danger at the intersection. Unfortunately, our own District 9 Councilman is in the background keeping the traffic signal moving forward. We would be better served by a person who represents the entire district, not just his Thoroughgood neighborhood

John Eason

Bob Vila's 5 "Must Do" Projects for February

Make the most of this short month and show your house some love in honor of Valentine's Day

<u>By Bob Vila</u>

.Here are my top 5 "Must Do" Projects for February

1. Breathe Easier: Change Your Furnace Filter

Now that the heating season is in full swing—even in parts of the country not accustomed to (or prepared for) nearfreezing temperatures-be sure to clean or change your furnace filters regularly. Why? Since most of the air in your house circulates through your HVAC system, furnace filters are a first line of defense against dust and airborne allergens. Basic furnace filters are designed to trap dust, dirt, and airborne particulates before they can get into the system and potentially damage the fan or heating coil. More expensive filters perform the same role, plus they can enhance the air quality in your home by trapping bacteria, pollen, and mildew and mold spores. So how do you know when it's time to change a furnace filter? Here are some general guidelines—although, as always, it is a good idea to check your owner's manual for the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations. Typically you should change a basic (fiberglass or paper) furnace filter every one to two months. And you should change or clean an electrostatic or HEPA filter every two to four months, if...

- You have one or more furry pets
- You notice excessive to moderate dust buildup in your house
- You live with a smoker
- Your heating system fan runs most of the time
- You open your doors and windows frequently
- You notice dust or dirt building on your current filter

2. Give Your Kitchen Cabinets a Facelift

Your kitchen gets a lot of use, so it doesn't take long to begin seeing signs of wear and tear on wood cabinets. Before you decide to invest in replacements, consider a more budget-friendly solution: <u>DIY restoration</u>. If the wood stain on your cabinets has worn out, try cleaning with a mix of TSP and water. When dry, sand lightly and use a tack cloth to remove dust. Then apply a polyurethane varnish tinted to whatever tone you find appealing. This varnishstain combo is likely to do the job in one application. If you are tired of the wood tone all together, give your cabinets a totally new look with a coat (or two) of paint

3. Add Some Architectural Charm

If you live in a newly constructed home but long for that 'old house' charm, there's plenty you can do to add character. Crown molding, baseboards, chair rails, wainscoting and recessed panels are all great ways to inject personality. If you have a stairwell, replacing the handrails and newel post with more elegant woodwork is another way. Check local <u>salvage yards</u>, classified ads, and online sites, from eBay to Craigslist, to snag impressive vintage pieces on the cheap. Even swapping out builder-grade light switches and outlet plates with nickel- and brass-finished ones, or replacing a modern pendant with a historic reproduction fixture, will make a strong impact.

4. <u>Save that Amaryllis</u>

If you were the lucky recipient of an <u>Amaryllis</u> this year, don't think of the plant as a one-bloom wonder. Once it has finished blooming, cut back the flowering stalk and place the pot in a sunny window. Fertilize and watch for the shoots of leaves to grow tall. When the danger of frost has passed, move the plant to a sunny spot outdoors. Water and fertilize through the summer, and when the plant enters dormancy come fall, store it in a dark spot for about eight weeks. Replant it in a bigger pot, place it in a sunny spot, water when dry and watch for a repeat performance timed just right for the holidays.

5. Forget 50 Shades of Grey-GO GREEN!

While *our* "50 Shades" may not be as sexy as the blockbuster novel, these green tips for the home promise gratifying results and earth-friendly fulfillment. Begin by planting a tree, recycling something, fixing a leak—many more ways to go green await in <u>50 Shades of Green</u>.

Found at:<u>https://www.bobvila.com/articles/31678-bob-</u>vila-s-5-must-do-projects-for-february/#.WIpHqvkrLIU





Please welcome our new dentist Dr. Kelly Paxton DENTISTRY DONE RIGHT

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www.LHGCL.orgJ

Membership

Greetings Neighbors! Our Membership drive is underway, and we need your help! Our goal this year is to reach 450 members! You can help your civic league reach its membership goal by joining today. Please show your support by mailing in the completed form along with your \$ 20.00 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. Membership dues allow us to fund neighborhood events and provide our newsletter to each household. We really need your support!!!

| Name(s) | Please mail your check to: |
|--|---|
| Address | LST/HP/GS Civic League |
| Phone # | P.O. Box 68883 |
| FIIOIIE# | Virginia Beach, VA 23471 |
| Email | İ |
| (For email broadcast of crime alerts and other commu | nity interest topics) |
| Dues are \$20.00 per household for the Civic League | Year which runs from January 1 to December 31 |
| Dues are \$20.00 per household for the Civic League The Civic League is always looking for mo | |
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| The Civic League is always looking for mo (Please check any position(s) for which you would Neighborhood Watch | embers to volunteer in the following areas: ld like to volunteer – not required for membership) |

The following new and renewing memberships were received and recorded between December27, 2024, and January 26, 2025. Thank you for supporting your civic league – we are all in this together. Memberships are through 12/31/2025 unless otherwise indicated.

Carolyn Betz (2026) Robert & Jeanine Breault Ron & Dawn Cimbala Paul Cooper & Cathy Case (2028) Mary Ann Conrad (2026) Connie DeBord & Ester DeBord Jane Dochtermann Edward & amp; Debbie Douglas Jean Ervin Wayne & Teen Foshay (2028) Betty Fultz (2026) Bob & Gayle Gregg Carl Gustafson & Patricia Tepovich (2036) Joe & Laura Hennessy (2028) Michael & Jennifer Hibar David & Sandy Huband Mike Ingle Dana & Patricia Kelly Grace Lawerence (2026) Werner & Linette Knocklein Judy Jackson Ron Jesberg Chase & Jack Lozito Chris Lozito & Phill Primeaux Serena & Terry Lucy

Scott & Tina Mauldin Jack Molovinsky Betty Moye Ron & Elizabeth Oates Peggy O'Neill & Doug Weiss (2026) Pat & Jerry Pacilio Brian & Elizabeth Perkins Greg & Glenda Prentiss (2026) Chris & Holly Rink Chad & Jenna Roberts (2026) Betty & Jack Rudiger Alvaro Rumbos Eileen Schneider Heinz & Seyrlehner (2026) Rob & Tracie Silva (2026) Steve & Jeanette Stallings (2027) Tom & Ellie Steffens (2027) George & Myra Stein (2026) Ben & Priscilla Svedberg Eylem Tokcan (2026) Nancy Traylor & Kelly Jackson Tom & Michelle Tyree Charles & Sharon Votava Carolyn Walsh (2026) Allen & Debra Waters

Lexy & Josh Willey Carlisle & Gayle Wilson (2029 Tom & Sheryl Winter (2026) Rick & Sandy Woolard (2027)



<u>We want you to</u> join the civic <u>league</u>.

Help us meet our goal of 450 memberships. Joining is easy and the annual \$20.00 fee that covers the entire family is a real bargain.

Neighborhood Watch

Crime in Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point, Governor Square is almost nonexistent today. It wasn't too long ago that our community was constantly showing up on the weekly crime reports. We had larcenies from vehicles, belongings stolen from sheds and garages and on a couple of occasions from people's homes. We worked with the police and asked our neighbors to increase their vigilance. Little by little we saw improvement. Yes, we still get the occasional report of larceny from a vehicle but in most cases, those are isolated incidents and could have easily been prevented.

I think the main reason for the reduction in the number of crimes is the fact that everyone bought into the benefits of Neighborhood Watch and realized that the more people that were watching for suspicious individuals the better it was for them. You can watch over your own property effectively but not 24/7, but you and 4 or 5 of your nearby neighbors watching each other's property intermittently will do it much better and when everyone else in our community does the same thing, we have a safer place to live.

In another month or so the weather will start to warm up and we will be spending more time outside enjoying our beautiful, safe, friendly community. Make it a habit to greet each other. Just a friendly wave and a smile will go a long way to make someone feel a part of the community. Getting to know each other builds relationships that will help keep your home and family safe and make our community a more enjoyable place to live. We are all in this together.

Neighborhood Watch has become about quality of life too. Neighborhood Watch brings neighbors together. Knowing your neighbor also means caring for your neighbor. If a single elderly neighbor is on oxygen or has other serious health issues a nearby neighbor should know about it. In the event of a power outage, who is going to check on that person? These are things that we can do for each other. This is something that Neighborhood Watch people should do besides looking out for each other's property. Caring about your neighbors will help make your community safer too. Being a good neighbor helps make your home a more pleasant place for your family to live.

Thank you for making Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point, Governor Square a great place to live.



Where Does our Water Come From?





With all of the recent news concerning the California fires and the water sources required to extinguish them you may wonder where our water comes from.

The explosive population growth of Virgina Beach that began in the 70's caused great concern for the stress being put on public utilities and prompted city leaders to explore options to ensure the city would have sufficient water resources for its residents in the future. After considering potential options, the decision was made to look to the west for a source to satisfy current and future needs for the city's water.

In a project that required nearly 30 years of planning and lawsuits Virginia Beach partnered with Chesapeake and ended up building the longest drinking straw in Virginia – a 76-mile pipeline, 60 inches in diameter, to pipe Roanoke River water from Lake Gaston (located west of I-95 on the North Carolina border) to Virginia Beach. The pipeline stretches from the Pea Creek intake on Lake Gaston and exits the Roanoke river basin before reaching Ennis Pond in Isle of Wight County and then to Lake Prince, a reservoir located in the city of Suffolk that is owned and operated by the city of Norfolk.

Norfolk's primary water supply comes from Lake Prince and the Western Branch Reservoir in Suffolk. Norfolk and Virginia Beach lakes also supplement Norfolk's water supply system. These includes Lake Wright, Lake Whitehurst, Little Creek Reservoir, Lake Smith, Lake Lawson and Stumpy Lake. Water is pumped from these lakes to Norfolk's Moore's Bridges Water Treatment Plant where it undergoes an extensive filtering and disinfection process to remove any particles, bacteria, algae and impurities. After treatment the water is pumped into a distribution system that delivers water to Virgina Beach residents. Thanks to the vision and tenacity of our previous city leaders a potential crisis was averted and our water needs will be met well into the future.





February 2025

2 Love Is In The Air 2

Make this Valentine's Day unforgettable!
Do you have a go-to date night idea, favorite love song, or dessert recipe that always steals hearts?

Share your favorite ideas with the community! Inspire each other with creative ways to celebrate love whether it's a fun DIY activity, the ultimate dinner recipe, or a dreamy date night spot.

Snap a photo or drop a suggestion on the community board. SCAN THE CODE for the FB group link! Let's spread the love this season—because the best celebrations are the ones we share! $\infty + 10^{-10}$

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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 <u>get the 9th one</u> <u>free!</u>

February 2025

Real Estate Corner

During the home selling process, repairs can be a necessary part of the transaction. Buyers have a home inspection and negotiate a list of repairs that the seller is required to complete before settlement. An issue that can arise is a need for city permits and the time involved to pull the permit and have the city complete the final inspection.

The Real Estate Information Network (REIN) provides a Consumer Disclosure Information Form for buyers and sellers which states:

"BUILDING PERMITS: Certain improvements or repairs to buildings on properties require permits from the jurisdiction in which the property is located. Permits are required for some additions, modifications and remodeling including building construction, electrical, plumbing, mechanical installations and maintenance. The purpose of a permit is to ensure compliance with the State Building Code. Virginia cities, towns and counties enforce the Uniform Statewide Building Code. A buyer should undertake such due diligence as buyer deems appropriate to ensure the permits have been secured and inspections performed".

Here are a few examples of repairs requiring application for a permit and a final inspection from the City of Virginia Beach:

- Removal/abatement of underground oil tanks
- Roofs on attached properties (townhouses)
- Ductwork replacement
- Structural repairs including crawl space work
- Gas HVAC replacement/ Gas Hot Water heaters any gas equipment
- Electrical Panel Replacement
- New decks and fences
- Additions
- Crawl Space Encapsulations
- Driveways

Please contact the City of Virginia Beach permit department to verify if there are any improvements or repairs that require a city permit.

Source: Real Estate Information Network (REIN)

Jean Bowman, Bowman Realty, Licensed in Virginia

Kitchens Bathrooms Windows Established 1975 Room Additions No Job too Small



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Pending 4616 John Alden Rd

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Pending

GOVERNOR SQUARE

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Groundhog Day – What was Punxsutawney Phil's Prediction?

By the time you receive this newsletter Ground Hog Day will have already passed on Sunday, February 2nd. While our recent cold spell may make it hard to believe that spring is right around the corner, the most wellknown groundhog and prognosticator Punxsutawney Phil will have made his prediction.

According to legend if the prognosticator sees its shadow on a clear day, he will retreat – meaning six more weeks of winter weather. If the groundhog emerges and does not see his shadow, then spring is said to come early. If the day

is cloudy and, hence, shadowless he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

Don't be too concerned if he sees his shadow. <u>Stormfax</u> <u>Almanac</u> calculated that his accuracy is 39% historically.





THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR US! WINNER 7 YEARS IN A ROW!

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February 2025



Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club Our next meeting will be February 25th at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd @ Ewell Rd

Social 6:30 pm - Program 7:00 pm

Winter Wonderland Flower Show



The members of Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club held a mini Flower Show co-chaired with Lynnhaven Heritage Garden Club on Saturday, January 25, at Bayside Presbyterian Church. It was well attended with over 50 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 59th Anniversary! February 2025

Lake Smith Terrace Garden will celebreate their 59th anniversary with a luncheon at Princess Anne Country Club. Therefore, we will not have a regular meeting in February.

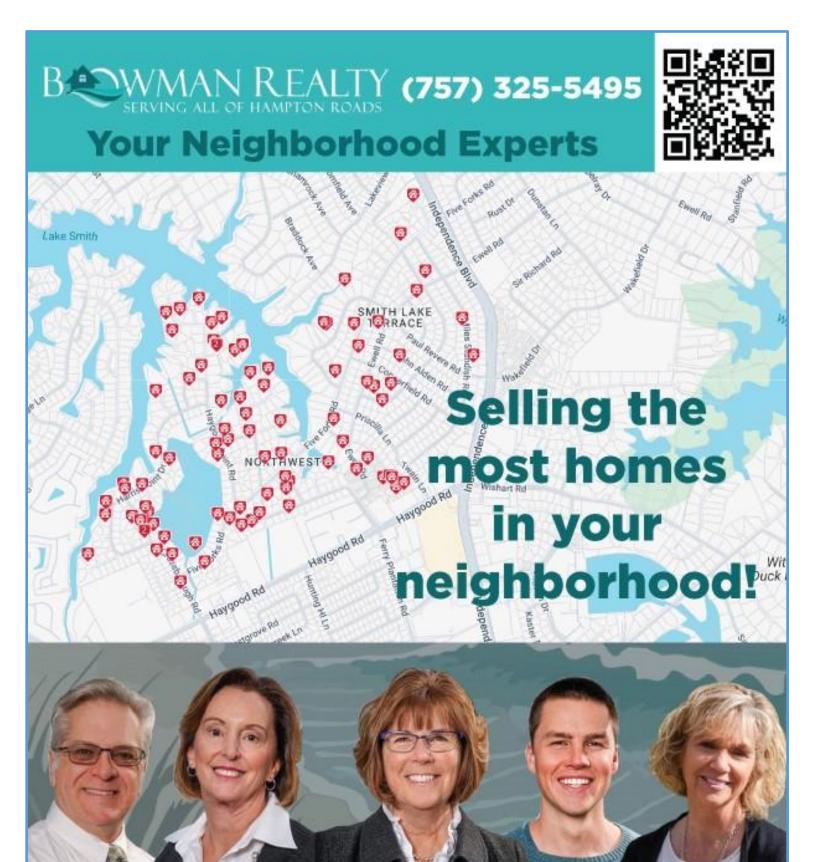


But stay tuned for our March 25 program!

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



Come Grow With Us!!!!!!



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