

Lake Smith Ripples



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

January 2021

Volume 24, Issue 5



Successful Food Drive

Denise Snee, LouEllen McCarthy and Amy Hooks pause after stuffing an SUV with the food generously donated by neighborhood residents at the neighborhood food drive held at the Haygood Point Park on 13 December.

The food was delivered to the Bayside Presbyterian Church food pantry to help feed those in need in our area. A big thank you to all those who volunteered to work and those who contributed food at this thoughtful and timely community event



**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

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

Ripples-Newsletter@googlegroups.com

President's Corner

I believe we can all agree the year 2020 was not a very good one for most of us. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a great deal of disruption in our daily lives. Looking ahead to 2021, there does not appear to be any relief in the near-term. The fast-tracked virus vaccine is coming soon, but we know it will take time to effect real relief from mandated restrictions on businesses, schools, travel, and our day to day lives. Your civic league has not planned for any meetings or events through the end of March. The board of directors continues to monitor the pandemic mandated restrictions. We will evaluate our ability to safely conduct any spring events during the coming weeks.

Speaking of 2021. How many of you made serious resolutions on New Years eve? Now, be honest, how many are still sticking with those resolutions? If you can say "Yes I am", you have my admiration.

The construction crew working on the storm water pipe replacement on Five Forks Road at the "Duck Crossing" completed the job before Christmas. The road is now open, and the detour signs removed. We prompted the VB Public Works engineer to have a modification made to the original plans in order to create a permanent concrete cofferdam on the south side to maintain a higher lake level in the small portion of the lake. The original wooden cofferdam, installed in 1997 by Norfolk, served that purpose, but was in poor condition and was destroyed by the pipe replacement activity.

Winter is a particularly difficult time of year for our elderly residents. If you have senior citizen neighbors who seem to have a harder time getting out and about, keep an eye out for them. They probably won't ask you for help, but I believe they would likely appreciate you occasionally checking on them. Sometimes just helping out by taking trash containers in and out can make a difference. Or, maybe you can offer to pick something up for them when you are going to the grocery store. It doesn't take a lot to make a positive difference in someone's life. Having good and thoughtful neighbors is what makes a community like ours be one of the best places to live.

Even though we are not having meetings or events, your civic league will continue to publish, print and hand-deliver this monthly newsletter – the *Lake Smith Ripples*. Our editor-in-chief, Rick DeJaegher, does an outstanding job assembling this most informative newsletter every month from September to May. We offer advertising space to help offset the expense associated with printing this product. If you own a business, and would like to get more exposure, consider advertising in the newsletter. Our ad rates are very affordable. The newsletter is delivered to each of the 905 homes in our neighborhood. Additionally, it is shared electronically with more than 50 people in Virginia Beach. For more information on placing an ad, please contact Steven Conner, our Fundraising Director.

Stay safe during these weather months. It is most important to remind your children to stay off any ice that may form on the lake. In our region, ice on lakes and ponds is never thick enough to safely support people.

John Eason

...the last year has changed all of us in ways that we never imagined.

Welcome 2021, the last year has changed all of us in ways that we never imagined. We changed our work routines, the way we shop, our socializing, the way we attend classes and many other activities that we never thought twice about, but now when we look back on how we did those things before COVID we long for the good old days. Well, I wish that the good old days would return too. But, we made it this far and we must move forward with our everyday tasks while we work within the guidelines that will help eradicate this virus. Good riddance 2020.

Thank you everyone that donated to the Police officer whose wife committed suicide on Thanksgiving. Your donations paid to have his mother fly here to be with him and his son and to help them get through this ordeal. So far we have received almost \$2400 from our Civic League and the CAC. The money collected minus the cost of the airfare was deposited to the *Matthews Family Memorial Fund* that was set up at *Towne Bank*.

In the New Year let's commit to keeping the criminal element out of our neighborhood. I have not been made aware of any vehicles that had items stolen from them or any other crimes recently. One of the main reasons that our community has a low crime rate compared to surrounding areas is that everyone keeps their vehicles locked and their valuables out of sight. Keeping vehicles locked prevents most of these types of crime, and signals to criminals that our neighborhood is locked down making it more productive for them to go to other locations where people are more lax in keeping their vehicles locked and possessions protected. Do your part. This only works if everyone participates.

Recently there was an incident where a pit bull reportedly ran at and was aggressively threatening some people in the street. No one was injured but these types of encounters affect people for long periods of time. If you are an animal owner please be considerate of others. Keep your gates closed and your fence in good order to prevent your dog from getting out and injuring someone. You, as an owner, are responsible for your dog.

Since most of us are working or attending classes from home or minimizing our exposure by staying in, it seems that scammers know this and are more active with their phone calls, texts and emails trying to get us to part with either our personal information or credit card number. Don't do it. You didn't win the Irish sweepstakes, your car warranty won't be renewed over the phone and Microsoft will not call you when you have a computer virus. If you ever think that one of these types of call is legit, talk it over with a trusted friend or relative. Emphasis on "trusted". Just because someone is related to you does not automatically mean they can be trusted.

A recent study from the Keck School of Medicine at USC suggests that relatives may pose a higher threat to financial elder abuse than strangers. So even if your aging family member knows to watch out for scammers on the phone and online, they might overlook signs of fraud within the walls of their own home.

<https://seniorsafeandsound.org/how-the-elderly-can-be-scammed-by-family-members/>

Have a happy, healthy and safe New Year

Williams Farm Recreation Center
5252 Learning Cir., VA Beach, VA 23462
757-385-2958



Recreation Centers are Open

Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation is enrolling new members and renewing existing memberships online, over the phone, or by visiting any of the city's community rec centers.

Because of COVID-19 reservations are required for all rec center activities.

- Members may sign up for 4 events per week.
- Registration opens each Friday at 9:00 for activities occurring the following Monday-Sunday and close at 5:00 a.m. on the day of the activity.
- Members may call on the day-of to check for cancellations to add additional reservations above 4.
- All activities are 1-hour blocks unless otherwise noted.

Get access to all community rec centers and amenities including indoor pools, cardio equipment, gymnasium activities, and fitness areas by visiting **vb.gov.com/parks**

Beware! Current Scams Seek Online Account and Social Security Numbers



As if we don't have enough to be concerned with, there are 2 very active seemingly 'official' phishing scams that try to get targeted individuals to reveal their Social Security, or online account number. One advises that there is a 'suspicious charge against your Amazon account' and requests you contact them concerning the charge. When the recipient of the call responds the first thing requested is their account number so the caller can look up and 'check' the account (uh oh). The second scam is similar. The caller states that the call recipient's social security has been associated with several large unpaid illegal account charges, and that failure to respond to the call will result in a warrant being issued for their arrest

When the call recipient then responds to resolve the issue, of course the first thing asked for is their social security number so the caller can run it against the outstanding arrest warrants (again, uh oh).

The following letter concerning the current scams appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on Sunday, December 12th and I thought it would be appropriate to pass on for information purposes. Ed.

Dear Amazon customers,

Hang up or click delete when you get a robocall or email alert suggesting your Amazon account has been compromised. It hasn't been. You're just the target of the business imposter scam – one that always gains momentum around the holidays and has become particularly prevalent during the pandemic when so many of us are shopping online –in which criminals try to trick you into giving up your login information or other credentials so they really can compromise your account.

“To connect with one of our customer support representatives, please press '1' or simply stay on the line,” says one such call featured in a federal Trade Commission alert earlier this month. The recording may also supply a bogus toll-free number for you to call. Emails will ask you to click through to what looks like official company login sites.

Whether it's Amazon, Apple, the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service or any other corporation or agency contacting you with “urgent” warnings that sound official, the first thing to do is to back all the way out of the situation.

Don't press “1”, Don't click the seemingly helpful link. Don't reveal any personal information. If you doubt my advice and wonder if this time the warning is real, go to your account and contact the company or agency directly using trusted websites. Check your credit card transactions for unexpected activity. Thank me later. Tell your children, tell your parents. Tell your friends. **Back out. Always, always, backout.**

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Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club News

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

ZOOM meeting for interested gardeners.

Our speaker is Rick Rowe, Parks and Natural Area
Coordinator

Topic: Sustainable Gardens, how to sustain horticulture
and landscapes.

Contact Keren Pernini for Zoom info
(757) 499-9885

GARDEN TIPS

As we enter the New Year don't forget to keep water out
for the birds. They need help finding water during the
winter. Also, keep feeders filled, and check them regularly.

Now is the time to start getting the things you need to start
seeds indoors. This includes grow lights, planting trays,
organic growing soil and seed. Some seeds need to be
started in the next thirty days. You can find directions on
most seed packs when to start.

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Winter Maintenance for Your Home

The comforts of a cozy, warm home in winter can help you forget about the short days and the multiple layers of clothing. Following a maintenance schedule throughout the year will certainly benefit you in the winter, but be aware of the hazards the cold conditions can bring to your home. These guidelines can help you weather the winter season with a well-maintained home.

Be Energy Efficient

Since your heating system will be running constantly throughout the winter, remember to change out your HVAC filters every month. Inspect the insulation in your attic and crawl space. Warm air rises and leaves the house through the roof, so you should focus on insulation in your ceilings. Seal areas around recessed lights, the attic hatch, and plumbing vents that may be allowing warm air from the living space below to enter the attic. Proper attic ventilation, adequate attic insulation, and a tight air barrier between the attic and the interior of the house will work together to prevent ice dams.

If you don't have double-paned windows, remove the screens and install storm windows to ensure that the heat stays in and the cold stays out. If you're on a tight budget, pick up an inexpensive plastic-film sheet kit from your local hardware store. These will only last one season, but they do help with energy efficiency, and are able to halt the cold flow of winter drafts. If you have a fireplace, burning firewood is another way to save energy costs. When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly (about an inch) and close doors leading into the room. That will prevent the fire from drawing warm air out of the rest of the house and replacing it with cold air. And, remember to store your firewood in a dry place at least 30 feet from your home to avoid a fire hazard.

Protect Your Pipes

Pipes located in attics, crawl spaces, basements, and near outer walls can be susceptible to freezing in extreme temperatures. When the forecast calls for unusually cold temperatures, let water drip from hot and cold faucets overnight. Also try keeping cabinet doors open to allow warm air to circulate in places like below sinks. If you open the cabinet doors, be sure to remove anything inside the cabinets that may pose a safety to hazard to children, such as household cleaners. For exposed pipes in your attic, basement, or crawlspaces, add extra insulation around them.

Be Ready for an Emergency

Although rare, blackouts and snow-ins have occurred here during winter months, so take a moment to prepare yourself and your family for such emergencies. Having the following items ready will help you make it through safely.

- Flashlights
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food items
- Blankets
- Phone numbers for your utility companies
- Battery backup to protect your computer and other important electronic equipment
- First-aid kit
- If you have an emergency generator, make sure you have gasoline stored and available to fuel it.

Winter Yard Care

Even with the cold weather conditions, your yard still needs to be maintained. Make sure tree and shrub branches are well away from the house and windows. Icy conditions can cause branches to break and damage your home. Walk around your home and survey the roof to see if any ice dams have formed; call a contractor if you suspect this is the case. As you walk around your house, check the foundation for small cracks or openings where mice or other pests can tunnel in. Winter is when they seek the warmth of your house, so seal up any possible entrances.

Source - <https://learningcenter.statefarm.com/residence/>

Virginia Beach Public Library Free Virtual Programs

January 2021

[YouTube Video Post: Art Exhibit & Meet the Artist: Ja'lisa Yates](#)

Explore the digital art of Ja'lisa Yates and listen in on a question-and-answer session with the artist. Yates creates monochromatic portrait paintings with Photoshop and brings them to life through layering of different brush strokes and textures. Inspired by her imagination and dream-like fantasy, her skillful work highlights the diversity of human faces. Adults 18+. Registration is not required. The video post will be made available for viewing at [YouTube.com/vbplibrary](https://www.youtube.com/vbplibrary) on Jan 6 at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 6, 6:30-7:30 pm., 385-0150

[Roll20 Live: Roleplaying Adventures](#)

Meet up online with other teens and play Dungeons & Dragons with a Library Game Master. Grades 9-12. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 7, 3:00-5:30 p.m., 385-0150

[WebEx Live: Virtual Paint Night and To-Go Paint Kit](#)

Follow a step-by-step tutorial and create a work of art. Grades 3-5. Once registered, a to-go kit of supplies will be available for you to pick up at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m., 385-0150

[Zoom Live: Spark Joy Webinar](#)

Learn ways to bring joy to your life through organization during a Spark Joy Zoom webinar with Shannon Honeycutt, founder of Spark Joy Charlotte. Shannon is a Certified Silver KonMari Consultant trained by tidying expert Marie Kondo. VBPL is excited to host Shannon for an inspiring presentation on what it means to lead a life that sparks joy. Adults 18+. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 9, 2:00-3:30 p.m., 385-015

[WebEx Live: English Conversation Club](#)

Practice speaking English, build confidence and connect with other community members. After registering, pick up a copy of Easy English News at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. or Kempsville Area Library, 832 Kempsville Rd. Adults 18+. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 13 & 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m., 385-0150

[WebEx Live: Stork Storytime Workshop](#)

Become your child's first teacher and develop the confidence and skills to create a daily reading routine before your baby arrives. Learn the importance of reading aloud to children, how to select books for babies and about Virginia Beach Public Library programs and resources available to your family. Families that complete 20 "read alouds" may visit Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library at 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. to pick out a developmentally appropriate board book to add to their new baby's book collection. Family. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 23, 7:00-7:30 p.m., 385-0150

[WebEx Live: Virtual Ready to Read Family Workshop](#)

Parents and caregivers will learn techniques to support early literacy with their children through daily, at-home routines. Participants will receive a free story time kit for their family available Jan. 15-25 at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver. Please register prior to picking up a kit. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 26, 10-10:45 a.m., 385-015

[WebEx Live: Live Art \(Alma W. Thomas\)](#)

Learn about the life and work of Alma W. Thomas, an American artist and educator. Art materials will be supplied by the library and available for families to pick up Jan. 18-26 at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. Grades K-5. Please register prior to picking up art materials. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 26, 4:00-4:30 p.m., 385-0150

[WebEx Live: Family Geode Exploration](#)

Learn how geodes form and crack open your own geode to discover the crystals inside. Geodes will be available for families to pick up Jan. 18-28 at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. One geode per family. You will need to supply your own sock or towel to safely break the geode. Grades K-5. Please register prior to picking up geode. Visit www.vbgov.com/library-events to register. Jan. 29, 3:30-4 p.m., 385-0150

[Civic League Scholarship](#)

The Civic League will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to a deserving 2021 graduating high school senior. Selection will be based on educational achievement, community involvement, and communication skills. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the May General Meeting. Please visit our website (www.LHGCL.org) to learn more about the eligibility requirements, instructions, and application. Deadline for the application is 30 April 2021.



The month of January is usually associated with a resurgence in the real estate industry, as buyers and sellers plan their real estate needs for the new year.

It is also a perfect time to 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 past year, which overall was an extremely good year:

Current Inventory: 882 detached and attached properties (historically low)

Pending: 724 properties are under contract and preparing to close

Sold: 8619 properties have sold in the past year
Below are the price ranges for the homes that SOLD:

0-\$100,000	76
\$101,000-\$200,000	1405
\$201,000-\$300,000	3078
\$301,000-\$400,000	1894
\$401,000-\$500,000	947
\$501,000-\$600,000	425
\$601,000-\$700,000	299
\$701,000-\$800,000	177
\$801,000-\$900,000	94
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	58
\$1,100,000-\$2,000,000	125
\$2,100,000-\$3,000,000	13
\$3,100,000+	4

The lowest priced home sold in the past year was \$43,000 and the highest price was \$4,400,000.

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

Jean Bowman, Bowman Realty

Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)

**Homes for Sale and Sold in our Neighborhoods
Since November 2020**



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

SOLD

- 908 Five Forks Rd
- 4652 Revere Point Rd
- 1101 Pickwick Rd
- 1034 Miles Standish Ct
- 900 Five Forks Rd
- 1145 Revere Point Rd

HAYGOOD POINT

FOR SALE

- 4797 Haygood Point Rd
- 789 Chippendale Dr

SOLD

- 792 Chippendale Dr

GOVERNOR SQUARE

PENDING

- 4629 Truman Ln
- 4607 Truman Ln

SOLD

- 4637 Truman Ln
- 4610 Truman Ln



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We need members!!! If you have not done so, please fill out the membership form and mail in your \$15 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League to help us reach our goal of 450 memberships. Your support is greatly appreciated!

A special "thank you" to all who have joined and supported our civic league. We could not fund our community activities without your help!!

Civic League Membership Form – New or Renewal

(Please print)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

e-mail _____

Please mail your check for \$15.00 to:

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

(For e-mail broadcasts of crime alerts and other community interest topics)

Dues are \$15.00 per household per Civic League Year which runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

The civic league is always looking for members to volunteer in the following areas:

Please check any positions 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 and pumpkin patch)

_____ Refreshments for meetings and events

_____ You name it – I'll be happy to assist

The civic league received new memberships or renewals from the following households between November 26th and December 23rd. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Dues paid are for the period of July 2020 - June 2021 unless otherwise noted.

- Jim & Joan Beauchamp
- Bob & Jeanine Breault *(thru June 2022)*
- George & Rania Delipetros
- Michael & Yvette Dunbar *(spelling corrected from Nov Edition)*
- Bill & Susan Hughes *(thru June 2023)*
- Ron Jesberg
- Michele & Krzys Kubajek
- Bobby & Sarah Moro
- Marie & Leslie Parr
- Ralph & Annegrete Peterson *(thru June 2022)*
- Michael & Deborah Pitrone *(thru June 2022)*
- Georgia & Steve Schatzman
- Jackie Simpson *(thru June 2022)*
- John & Margaret Stouffer *(thru June 2022)*

Welcome 2021

Although 2020 was a bummer, the Civic League is expecting to have an event filled year in 2021. If you haven't joined yet, please sign up today so you and your family can join in the fun.

SonRise @ Pembroke Manor
Christian Church



600 Independence Blvd.
VA Beach ~ 23462
(757) 490-8290

www.SonRiseVB.church

Service Times:
Saturday 6:00 pm ~ Sunday 10:30 am

- * Bible Based Teaching *
- * Nursery & Children's Ministry Available *
- * Casual Dress *
- * Small Group Bible Studies *

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- Three hours of informed instruction.
- \$120 for two permits
- Instructor will cover where, when and why you can carry concealed in Virginia today
- Bring your driver's license and your questions

Class covers how guns function, storage of weapon and ammunition, how to clean them, how to use them effectively, efficiently, competently. All questions will be answered. Various scenarios will be covered. Videos will be shown on awareness, how to handle yourself in residential incidents, what will happen with the police concerning this instance. Types of home security weapons, who in a family should know how to defend themselves. Types of home defense rules when defending your home, Castle Doctrine, Stand Your Ground Doctrine, good Samaritan applications.

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