



Lake Smith Ripples



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

December 2021

Volume 25, Issue 4

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Bayside Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, 14 December



6:00 p.m. Social Time
6:30 p.m. Dinner

Bring a covered dish for eight (8) – No desserts please

- Civic League to provide - shrimp, ham, turkey, rolls, desserts, beverages, and tableware
- Visit from Santa (photo opportunity – bring your camera)
- Door Prizes & 50/50 Raffle

Free for all Civic League members and their families

We need volunteers to assist with this event. Please call Edi at 473-3458 if you can help.

Caroling Around the Lake – 20 December – See Page 3

Bayside Presbyterian Church Annual Living Nativity Scheduled for 11 and 12 December

This will be Bayside Presbyterian's 36th annual Living Nativity presentation. Always an enjoyable event in which many of our neighbors have participated, families can meet wisemen, angels, shepherds and of course the favorites, live animals from cows to a donkey and a camel. There will be carolers and music along with free hot chocolate and cookies provided inside the church.



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

President: John Eason, 473-3458
jeason913@verizon.net

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samhri@verizon.net

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Treasurer:

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Theresa.Gray@truist.com

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The "Lake Smith Ripples" is published nine months of the year, September through May, by the Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point, Governor Square Civic League. Neither its Officers, Directors or members are responsible for the content of our advertiser's advertising or our contributors, nor do they endorse or recommend any product or service offered by them. The right to reject any ad or article deemed to be inappropriate is the absolute and sole discretion of the LST / HP / GS Civic League Officers, Directors or members is retained.

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

Ripples-Newsletter@googlegroups.com

Another year has come and gone, but at least we have returned to a sense of normalcy. The civic league, while idle for most of last year is again having meetings and events. Shopping centers and grocery stores are busy, as are the highways, especially at rush-hour. While COVID-19 is not the hot topic it was this time last year, we still need to take common sense precautions in our everyday lives when interacting with other non-family people. I've known three people who came down with the coronavirus. All survived after a week of intense symptoms. All were fully vaccinated, but none needed hospitalization. Washing your hands often and maintaining social distancing continues to be the common-sense prevention in our day-to-day lives.

I do hope everyone is planning to attend the civic league Christmas dinner event on December 14th. This will be the first such event since 2019. We typically have about a hundred people at the dinner. Please bring a purchased or homemade side dish to share. The civic league furnishes the main entrees, beverages, and desserts. See all the details on the front page of this newsletter.

Since the civic league shifted our membership year to the calendar year, the annual drive will now be in January. The next edition of this newsletter will include a membership form and preaddressed envelope for your annual dues. The annual civic league dues remain a low \$15 per household for 2022. The goal is 453 member households, which is one half of our total homes. Please help us reach that goal in the new year. A strong active civic league is a plus for any good neighborhood. Membership is open to owners or renters – if you live here, you're invited and encouraged to be a member household. We welcome you. Included in the January newsletter will also be a list of the 150+ households that have already paid dues for 2022.

We are coming up on the shortest day of the year in a couple of weeks. Through much of December, the sun sets around 5 p.m. It's that time of year when it can be difficult to see pedestrians on our streets late in the afternoon or early in the morning. If you are in the walker / jogger category, please wear something light colored while out on the neighborhood streets. I still come across people walking with all dark clothing which can create an extremely dangerous situation for both drivers and pedestrians. We have some dog walkers with great ideas for visibility. They use a lighted collar or strobe light on their dogs. It is amazingly effective.

As we get closer to Christmas, be sure to take an evening and tour the neighborhood to see all the lights and decorations on the homes. There is a great deal of pride shown by our residents when they take the time to decorate for this joyous time of year. One such home you may remember belonged to Jim and Denise Holland. Every year the bright colorful lights were a neighborhood attraction. They relocated down to alligator country in southwest Florida earlier this year, but I'll bet they work around the gators and decorate their new home – where it never snows. Perhaps Jim will send us a picture.

On behalf of your civic league's board of directors, we wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year.



John Eason

Sam Hribal

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. I know that I did. It's a great time of the year spending time with family and friends. We only have a short time before Christmas is upon us and that means shopping and more food.

Criminals love the holidays because it presents so many opportunities for them. Porch pirates follow delivery trucks and pluck the just delivered packages off of porches and hope it's something that they can use or sell and it leaves your distant friend or relative wondering why you never thanked them for the gift that they sent. Parking lot thieves watch for people returning to their vehicle to stash their just purchased packages so they can go back inside and buy more.

The VBPD will have extra officers patrolling the malls and shopping centers but you need to not put yourself or your property into a situation that makes an easy or inviting target for would be thieves. Always be aware of your surroundings when approaching your vehicle. Try to park in a well-lighted area and place your packages out of sight --- in the trunk is the best place. If you are alone and uncomfortable walking to your car, ask a security guard to escort you.

Larceny from vehicles ranks the highest in the number of crime reports taken by your VBPD. Always lock your vehicle. You don't want to come out of the mall and find that your vehicle was broken into or stolen. Never leave your keys in the ignition, cup holder, above the sun visor or in the glove box. It may be cold but even though you will only be gone for a couple minutes, never leave your car running unattended with the doors unlocked. If you are having out of town guests staying with you for the holidays remind them to lock their vehicles.

Last month in, Virginia Beach during a 28-day period there were 213 Larcenies from Motor Vehicles reported, 19 of which included firearms being taken. If you are a gun owner do not let a petty thief become a gun carrying thief.

Even when the best prevention methods are used we can still be victims. No matter how insignificant the item stolen please report it to the VBPD.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Caroling around the Lake

(with a stop at the park)

Traditional Family Fun

Monday, December 20th (rain date Dec 21st)

Be at the Park by 7:00 p.m.

The Fitshugh, Messer and Neely families will be Christmas caroling from a truck and trailer traveling around Oliver's pond and stopping at the Haygood Point Park to continue singing with whomever comes out to join them. The lake drive will begin at 6:00 p.m. It will start at Harris Point Dr., continue to Crossborough Rd., then to Five Forks Rd; continue to Haygood Point Rd. and stop at the park.

*Join the fun.
Dress warmly and
bring a flashlight*



Seeking Participants for the Nominating Committee

Your civic league is managed by the volunteers on the board of directors. The 11- member board is comprised of five officers and six directors, all elected by you – the voting membership. A slate of board candidates is assembled by the nominating committee, presented at the April membership meeting, and formally voted on at the May meeting. The new board members take over following the May meeting just in time for our three-month summer break.

The nominating committee consists of three to five civic league members in good standing. The committee's objective is to identify and recruit civic league members willing to serve as officers and directors. At this time, we are seeking civic league members willing to be participants on the nominating committee. We would like to have the nominating committee comprised of representatives from all of our neighborhoods – Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point, and Governor Square. Candidates for the nominating committee will be formally appointed by the current director team at the January 24, 2022 board meeting. Members interested in serving on this very important committee should contact John Eason at: jeason913@verizon.net.

Callie Hennessy

Returning to Normal

The month of November was full of half days and extended weekends at Bayside High School. Accordingly, students received a much-needed break, augmented by the Thanksgiving holiday finishing off the month.

A new mandate introduced by the school board to include a certain number of half days per semester was a blessing for both students and teachers. There has recently been a significant number of administrators, teachers, and even nurses that have quit their jobs due to the added stress of students coming back to school and having to redo their curriculum, once again, to accommodate new rules. I've noticed essay due dates being pushed back, class study sessions being included before assessments, and extra credit being given to help improve test scores. All of this has contributed to a reduction in anxiety for everyone. With the somewhat recent rise in anxiety rates, that's just what the school needed.

Recently there has been numerous opportunities for individuals to receive vaccines, further reducing anxiety around the virus. The COVID-19 booster has been available, and so has the flu shot. Additionally, I know of multiple people opting to receive the shingles shot (which has 2 doses). There are probably more to come, but as of right now, it's clear the medical and research services around the country are working hard to improve our lives in any way they can.

Furthermore, concert organizers are starting to revive their businesses, and sports complexes are doing the same. It appears with more knowledge and help from doctors and health care professionals; U.S. citizens are getting their lives back. Hopefully, in 2022 we can safely resume the activities we've been missing out on for so long.



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WINTER LORE



Three white frosts and next a storm

Heavy frosts are generally followed by fine, clear weather.

The north wind doth blow, and we shall have some snow.

Snow for a se'nnight (week) is a mother to the earth, forever after a stepmother.

When snow falls in the mud, it remains all winter.

When the first snowflakes are large, the snowstorm will be a lasting one.

When they are small, the storm will be a short one.

If snow begins at mid of day, expect a foot of it to lay.

When the snow falls dry, it means to lie. But flakes light and soft bring rain oft.

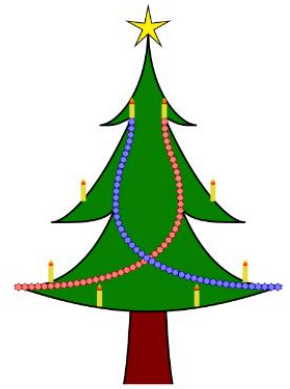
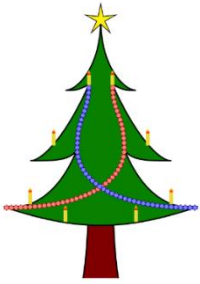
If the wind blows much on Stephen's Day (December 26), the grapes will be bad in the next year.



Source: Folklore, Fun Facts & Traditions from The Old Farmer's Almanac

CHRISTMAS TREE

SAFETY



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched

PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the tree
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat sources, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for outdoor use
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



FACTS

- ✓ One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by an electrical problem
- ✓ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious
- ✓ A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly 1 in every 4 of the fires

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



Recreation centers are open. Members who wish to renew their memberships may do so. Participation in the weight room, pool area, group fitness classes and and certain gymnasium activities such as pickleball, badminton and Family Gym are available.

*** Group fitness classes are now included in annual membership**



USPS.COM



2021 Holiday Shipping Cut Off Dates

Recommended for delivery by December 25, 2021

If you're mailing or shipping holiday cards and gifts, here's the deadline for getting cards and packages sent on time:

<u>DOMESTIC MAIL CLASS/PRODUCT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
USPS Retail Ground™	Dec. 15
First-Class Mail® Service	Dec. 17
Alaska	Dec. 18
Hawaii	Dec. 17
Priority Mail® Service	Dec. 18
Alaska	Dec. 18
Hawaii	Dec. 18
Priority Mail Express® Service	Dec. 23
Alaska	Dec. 21
Hawaii	Dec. 21

MILITARY APO/FPO/DPO First-Class Mail

All Zip Codes	Dec. 9
<u>Priority Mail Express Military (PMEMS)</u>	
Except ZIP 093	Dec. 16
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIP 093	No longer available

INTERNATIONAL First-Class Package and Priority

<u>Mail Service</u> (except Africa, Central and South America)	Dec. 6
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Heather K. Brinkman



How to Clean a Woodburning Fireplace

A good way to prepare for Santa's visit



Peter Cook

- Extinguish any fire. Spread out the embers with a fireplace shovel. Cover embers with ash or a little baking soda. Wait 24 hours.
- Make a deep cleaning solution. Combine dish soap, 1/4-cup of heavy-duty cleaner and 1 gallon of warm water in a large bucket.
- Use your hands and a fireplace shovel to remove burnt wood.
- Remove the andirons and fireplace grate. Knock off as much ash and debris as possible back into the fireplace.
- Sweep up ash with a broom and dustpan. Use a hand vacuum, shop vacuum or vacuum hose to thoroughly remove any residue.
- Scrub inside the fireplace with a stiff bristled brush and cleaning solution. Work from the top down. Repeat this process a few times if necessary.
- Clean the bricks on a fireplace surround with a pumice stone dipped in dish soap. For particularly stubborn soot stains, try a trisodium phosphate cleaner (TSP).
- If you have glass doors, clean them with glass cleaner and paper towels. Or learn how to clean fireplace glass with wood ash. Dip a paper towel in warm water and then ash. Rub the glass until it is clean. Rinse and polish with a paper towel.
- Allow your fireplace walls and floor to dry thoroughly.
- Clean the andirons and tools with dish soap and water. Follow up with metal polish if desired.
- Place cookies and a glass of milk in the vicinity of the fireplace. Go to bed and await the arrival of the visitor from the North Pole.

Happy Holidays

Historically, the real estate market tends to slow in the month of December. Not this year! The real estate market is “bustling” with activity. We are continuing to see record breaking sales. With “talk” of mortgage interest rates increasing, buyers are out searching for a new home, hoping to lock in with current rates. That being said, December may be an opportune time to place your home on the market. Citywide inventory tends to decline in the winter season and current inventory is at an all-time low in Virginia Beach.

Homes show beautifully when they are adorned with Christmas lights and Holiday decorations. And keep in mind, the buyers who are out “shopping” this time of year are very serious and in need of a home!

Jean Bowman, Bowman Realty
Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)



Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since November 2021



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

FOR SALE
905 Five Forks Rd
4612 Copperfield Rd
4713 Five Forks Ct*
1212 Five Forks Rd

PENDING
921 W. Ferry Plantation Rd
1117 Ewell Rd

SOLD
4713 Five Forks Ct*
4637 Priscilla LN

HAYGOOD POINT

FOR SALE
833 De Lafayette Ct

GOVERNOR SQUARE

FOR SALE
No Active Listings

SOLD
4604 Truman Lane
4616 Truman Lane

*Sold and relisted after closing. Currently for sale.

WANTED



Volunteer webmaster to maintain and update our civic league website. No pay, just satisfaction in providing a valuable community service. If interested, please contact John Eason at: (757) 473-3458 or email jason913@verizon.net

Advertise in the Ripples
To advertise your business or event in the *Lake Smith Ripples* newsletter contact Steven Conner at: 757-589-9895 or:

steven@bowmanrealtyva.com

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
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'Tis the Season to join the Civic League! The more members we have, the merrier it will be!! Please show your support by sending in the completed form along with your \$15 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. Your support is greatly appreciated!!! Have a blessed Holiday Season!!

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 January 1 to December 31

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)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Festival (picnic, hayride and pumpkin patch) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments for meetings and events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic League Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> You name it – I'll be happy to assist |

The civic league received new memberships or renewals from the following households between 10/27/21 and 11/23/21. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Dues are paid for calendar year 2021 unless otherwise noted.

RENEWING MEMBERS:

- Pete & KC Cook
- George & Peggy Craig (2022)
- Margaret Crawford
- Rick & Kathy DeJaegher (2025)
- Jimmy & Lindsey Judge
- Andy & Kay Mitchell (2024)
- Marie & Leslie Parr (2022)
- Ralph & Annegrete Peterson (2023)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Nancy Pasqualino

**Join the Civic League!
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 throughout the year**



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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 *

Important Contacts

Police, Fire & Rescue Emergencies.....	911
Non-Emergency Assistance.....	385-5000
Miss Utility.....	811
Crime Solvers Hotline.....	427-0000
Drug Activity / Graffiti	427-1749
Tall Grass, Trash, Litter, Broken Windows.....	385-5721
Zoning Issues, Trucks, Fences,.....	385-4131
Potholes, Street Signs, Street Repairs.....	385-1470
Animal Control (Option #2).....	385-5000
City Landfill.....	385-1980
Bulk Trash Pickup.....	385-4650
Beach Line (recorded information).....	385-8000

Sex-offender website:

<http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/>

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