



Happy Holidays!

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, 14 December
Bayside Presbyterian Church

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

- Bring a covered dish for 8 – No desserts
- 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
Not a member – not a problem. Join at the door

**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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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

President's Corner

Where has this year gone? It seems like just a couple of months ago it was January. Now, here we are in the midst of the Holiday season again and a soon-to-be brand-new year. We have enjoyed a good year here in our neighborhood. Thanks to your active participation in our robust neighborhood watch program, crime here is almost non-existent. As one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Virginia Beach, there are few vacant homes. Homeowner pride is on display with well-maintained homes surrounded by attractive landscaping. We are blessed to enjoy a large city-maintained neighborhood park that is a popular community gathering place. In this post-COVID year, the civic league conducted monthly membership meetings, a huge Easter egg hunt event, the largest fall festival ever, and this month the Christmas Dinner event. Our best-in-class civic league newsletter, the *Lake Smith Ripples*, was published, printed, and distributed nine times. The civic league's website (lhgcl.org) has been rebuilt and is continuing to be updated by our webmaster. We have had a good year.

Please mark your calendars for the civic league's Christmas Dinner event being held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. This very popular pot-luck dinner event is enjoyed by our residents each year. Don't miss it. See the front cover of this newsletter for all the details.

Early next year we will be meeting with other civic leagues to determine the future status of the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VB-CCO). For this past year, the three remaining board members have kept the organization in an unjustified "hold" status. The VB-CCO is a non-profit 501 (c) (4) organization, the same as this civic league. It is a separate entity from the Virginia Beach city government and should remain as such. We support an active VB-CCO working on behalf of residential neighborhoods throughout the city.

For many of us, dogs are a part of our family household. People walking their dogs are a common sight in the neighborhood. When you do so, please be sure to have bags to use for picking up the feces. This is the same whether it's in someone's front yard or in the park. You are required by law to clean-up after your dog when out in public – day or night.

Many of you know I am currently battling a serious health issue. Although the prognosis is very good, it is not fast. I thank each of you for the for the cards, calls, and well-wishes I have received. When this passes and I have returned to normal, I am looking forward to again participating at civic league meetings and events. I thank Sam Hribal and the rest of the civic league board members for filling in for me during this difficult period.

On behalf of the civic league's officers and directors, Edi and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year.

John Eason

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Neighborhood Watch! Enjoy the Holidays and stay safe, we want all of our good neighbors back for 2023. Here are some Holiday Safety Tips

Holiday shopping tips

- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Don't leave purchased gifts in plain view — lock them in your trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Only bring credit cards you plan to use.
- Check your bank statements regularly during the season to spot suspicious activity.

How to Keep Your Home Safe and Secure During the Holidays

- If you're planning to travel during the holiday season, be sure to keep your travel plans off your social media networks.
- Notify a neighbor ... that you will be gone and provide them a way to contact you.
- Remind your overnight guests to keep their vehicles locked.
- Hide packages and gifts.
- Watch your Christmas lights.
- Inspect the fireplace, furnace and the chimney.
- Keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources – especially those with an open flame, like fireplaces and candles. And remember to blow out your candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- The best decorations are safe decorations, so when you are decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture, out of windows, or across walkways and sidewalks.
- If you have a natural Christmas tree, water it to keep it fresh and safe. Real trees can dry up and turn into kindling in no time at all. Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you're sleeping. Most deadly fires happen while people are asleep.
- Inspect your decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn out.
- Keep batteries stored safely in their packaging and out of reach of anyone that might try to eat them, like small children and pets. Eating a battery can be deadly.

Keep Safe when Traveling

- Don't drive distracted.
- Always buckle up.
- Be prepared for severe weather.
- Watch your speed.
- Always drive sober.



CAR TIPS

Surviving Holiday Travel

With the holiday season here many of us will experience the joy of a family road trip traveling to spend time with loved ones. With this being the busiest travel time of the year, these trips can often be very long and stressful. Here are some tips that can hopefully take some of that stress away and make your trip more enjoyable:

- Preparing at least a week before departure by taking your vehicle in for an oil change, fluids topped off, and a once-over.
- Check the weather report and make plans for any alternate routes due to conditions if necessary.
- With gas prices being a concern for everyone, check out the trip cost calculator at GASBUDDY.com
- Check to make sure you have a roadside assistance program or AAA membership that is up to date for your peace of mind.
- While highways are great for getting places quickly be sure to take some scenic routes when you can. Try to take those one- or two-lane highways where you see beautiful landscapes and find those small roadside businesses. It's a great way to relax and get away from traffic.
- Most importantly remember some of the best family memories are created from road trips and the holiday season.

Happy Holidays and Safe Motoring,
Howard Forbes / Protime Automotive

It is the Season to join the Civic League! Your annual fee of \$15 allows admission to our Christmas Dinner this month!!! The more who attend, 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. You may also join the evening of our Christmas Dinner!! We really need more members to help support our Civic League Events that we have throughout the year. Your support is greatly appreciated! Merry Christmas and 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 September 26, 2022, and November 25, 2022. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Dues are paid for calendar year 2022 unless otherwise noted.

- Disa Adams
- Bill & Sandy Baker *(thru 2024)*
- Lishia Barnes ***Welcome New Member***
- Larry & Cindy Black
- Ron & Roberta Bock *(thru 2023)*
- Chuck & Sue Bowlyou ***Welcome New Member***
- Scott Buchwald *(thru 2024)* ***Welcome New Member***
- Bob Burinskas *(thru 2032)*
- Mike & Marie Buterbaugh ***Welcome New Member***
- Karina & Joe Campbell ***Welcome New Member***
- Connie & Esther DeBord *(thru 2023)*
- Justin & Tara Erbe *(thru 2025)*
- Richard & Maureen Fedorowicz *(thru 2024)*
- Troy & Jackie Frank ***Welcome New Member***
- Orzuri Garaizar ***Welcome New Member***
- Ken & Karen Garrison *(thru 2023)* ***Welcome New Member***
- Carol Ghosn
- Marlinz Heedari
- Jenn & Jason Hicks *(thru 2023)*
- David & Sandy Huband
- Ada Jaquith *(thru 2025)*

- Jean & Lee Jones
- Robert & Ruth LeMay *(thru 2024)*
- Willem & Else Kernkamp *(thru 2023)*
- Adam Lecker
- Jeff & Allison Mazanka
- Katherine & Brian McCullough
- Gloria Mendoza *(thru 2024)*
- Oskar Mueller
- Munden Family
- Luu Nguyen
- Marie Parr *(thru 2023)*
- Greg & Glenda Prentiss
- Whitney & Karisa Powell *(thru 2023)*
- Andres Rodriguez ***Welcome New Member***
- Lori & Terry Sellers
- Marco & Tracy Sifuentes *(thru 2023)*
- Sharon Silverberg ***Welcome New Member***
- Catheryn Simons
- Renee & Danny Smith ***Welcome New Member***

Continued on page 5

Membership - continued from page 4

Alie & Neal Stava ***Welcome New Member***

Michael Walton ***Welcome New Member***

Jim & Angie Willenbrink (thru 2023)

James & Elizabeth Wilson (thru 2030)

Leigh Winston (thru 2023)

Tom & Sheryl Winter (thru 2023)

Rick & Sandy Woolard (thru 2023)

Thomas & Yen Nan Wong (thru 2027)

Monthly Maintenance

Pete Cook

A Daily, Weekly, Monthly and Yearly Bike Maintenance Checklist



The following list of Necessary items and recommended frequency of maintenance is designed to give a recreational or club cyclist, or a commuter an outline for a schedule.

Before Every Ride:

- Check tire air pressure
- Check brakes and cables
- Be sure your crank set is tight
- Be sure quick release hubs are tight

After Every Ride:

- Inspect tires for glass, gravel shards, and cuts on tread and sidewall
- Check wheels for true
- Clean the bike's mechanical parts as necessary.
Once a week or every 200 miles: Lubricate chain (with dry lube; or every other week or 400 miles with wet chain lube).

Once a Month:

- Completely clean the bike, including the drivetrain if necessary
- Inspect chain and freewheel. Measure the chain for wear, check for tight links and replace the chain if necessary
- Inspect and lubricate brake levers, derailleurs and all cables
- Inspect pedals and lubricate SPD style cleats.
Inspect tires for wear; rotate or replace if needed
- Inspect and check for looseness in the:
 - Stem binder bolt
 - Handlebar binder bolt
 - Seat post binder bolt (or quick release)
 - Seat fixing bolt
 - Crank bolts
 - Chainring bolts
 - Derailleur mounting bolts



- Bottle cage bolts
- Rack mounting bolts
- Brake and derailleur cable anchors
- Brake and shifter lever mounting bolts
- Brake mounting bolts

Every Three Months:

- Inspect frame and fork for paint cracks or bulges that may indicate frame or part damage; pay particular attention to all frame joints.
- Visually inspect for bent components: seat rails, seat post, stem, handlebars, chainrings, crankarms, brake calipers and brake levers.

Every Six Months:

- Inspect and readjust bearings in headset, hubs, pedals and bottom bracket (if possible; some sealed cartridge bearings cannot be adjusted, only replaced).

Annually:

Disassemble and overhaul; replace all bearings (if possible); and remove and if necessary, replace all brake and shift cables. This should be performed at 6,000 miles if you ride more than that per year. If you often ride in the rain or mountain bikers who get dirty should overhaul their bicycles more often

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Historically, the real estate market tends to slow in the month of December. That has not happened this year! The real estate market remains steady with activity as buyers are out searching for a new home. Concerns about economy, inflation and the rise in interest rates have put some buyers on the sidelines, but it has not affected all of them. We are continuing to see some multiple offer situations...but not as many offers as we saw in the Spring season. Buyers may see less competition when trying to purchase a home.

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 remains 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!

Source: Real Estate Information Network (REIN)

Jean Bowman
Bowman Realty
Licensed in Virginia

**Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since October 2022**



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

FOR SALE
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4653 Bromfield Ave
4708 Five Forks Ct

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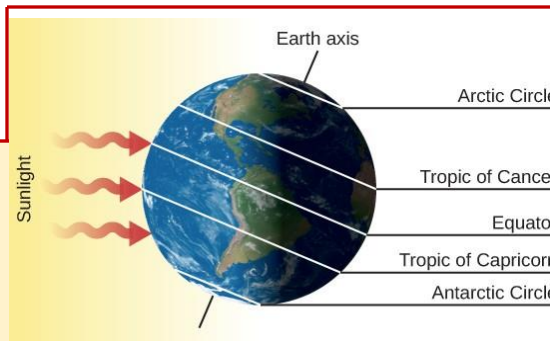
HAYGOOD POINT

FOR SALE
4605 Chippendale Ct
825 Moultrie Ct

PENDING
879 Five Forks Rd
801 De La Fayette Ct

GOVERNOR SQUARE

No Active Listings



**What is the
Winter Solstice?**

Winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight during the whole year: In the Northern Hemisphere, it always occurs around December 21 or 22 (In the southern Hemisphere, it is around June 20 or 21.)

The word solstice comes from the Latin words for “sun” and “to stand still.” In the Northern Hemisphere as summer advances to winter, the points on the horizon where the Sun rises and sets advance southward each day; the high point in the Sun’s daily path across the sky, which occurs at local noon, also moves southward each day.

At the winter solstice, the sun’s path has reached the southernmost position. The next day, the path will advance northward. However, a few days before and after the winter solstice, the change is so slight that the Sun’s path seems to stay the same or stand still. The sun is directly overhead at “local noon” on winter solstice at the latitude called Tropic of Capricorn

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The Upside of Downsizing

Slash utilities – Smaller homes require less electricity, gas, heating and cooling, resulting in lower bills

Less to Maintain – Downsizing to an apartment or condo eliminates the need for lawn service, cleaning service, and additional costs of driveway, roofing and yard maintenance

Reduce Taxes - A smaller property may offer the benefit of lower real estate taxes

Less Energy Usage – Reducing utilities will pave the way to a greener lifestyle.

Travel Readiness – If your aim is to become a more accomplished traveler, downsizing will provide you with a modest home base to return to between trips.


Minimalism – Sell, donate, or throw out items accumulated over the years that you no longer need

Less Stress – Less clutter, financial debt and maintenance obligations will lead to a clearer state of mind, and give you the opportunity to enjoy a new, simplified home.

Working with a real estate agent you can trust is important when it comes to buying or selling a home. And working with one who is familiar with the local neighborhood, mortgage lenders, and inspectors also makes sense. When you're ready to buy or sell, give me a call.

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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

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

Save! Pay for 8 ads and get the 9th one free!

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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

Merry Christmas





Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club



Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday, January 24th
At Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd at Ewell Rd
Social 6:30, Program 7:00

Our Dedicated Gardeners!

YES, *Neighbors*, our club maintains four garden areas in our neighborhood spring, summer, fall and winter (at right the Haygood entrance; note, object in foreground in not a club member).

Thanks to our wonderful neighbors who have supported this garden maintenance through the years by participating in our annual fall pansy and spring plant sales – the recent pansy sale was a huge success! Proceeds have also supported local environmental causes, organizations.

Our Next Meeting: (January 24TH)

will feature a presentation by Kendall Topping, a forester, will provide insight on the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOT), their programs and the challenges of deforestation. Kendall is the primary contact for forest landowner assistance, forest management services, and community forestry assistance at the local level, including Virginia Beach. Factoid: VDOT collects a variety of species of acorns and nuts that can be planted at its Augusta Nursery (Crimora, Va.) to grow into tree seedlings that will become the forests of tomorrow. So, neighbors, if you have any loose nuts in your yard or your house, please collect some for Kendall.



Your Neighborhood Garden Club Is the Place For You

A hearty welcome to our new members: Phil Fitzhugh, Kate Creek and Lisa Jordan. Guys, there's three of us now, so don't be bashful. The club offers education in Horticulture, Flower Designs, and Environmental Information for gardeners of all varieties – there is always something to learn. The club was established in 1966 and is still going strong.

So, visit us during one of our monthly meetings at 6:30 on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Bayside Presbyterian Church, on Ewell Road. Contact: Sylvia Williams, Membership Chair @ (717) 332-0688 Pernini, President @ (757) 589-8463 for more information or just come to a meeting!



Prevent Frozen Faucets When the weather report predicts a temperature plunge, keep your outdoor faucets safe with these simple tips.

- Disconnect and drain hoses and move them to inside storage.
- Close shut-off valves for outdoor faucets, and then drain each one. And/or, wrap faucets with insulating tubing or the insulated faucet covers now available at our local hardware store.

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