Lake Smith Ripples



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

January 2023

Volume 26, Issue 5



Civic League Christmas 2022 Potluck Dinner camaraderie, dinner, prizes, music, Santa and smiles

Susan Paddock Manager, Virginia Beach Public Libraries

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

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

Ripples-Newsletter@googlegroups.com

President's Corner

Happy New Year 2023

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. It is hard to believe we are already twenty-two years into the twenty-first century. Seems like just a few years ago we had the fear of impending disasters that were about to destroy the country on 1-1-2000, better known as Y2K. That never materialized and has mostly been forgotten. Those of us working in technical fields remember working many months leading up to Y2K correcting the year fields on every device driven by a clock and a calendar. You see, back in the 70s and 80s computers had limited storage capacity and to save that space, year entries were allotted just two bytes. After all, the year 2000 was so far away it just didn't matter. In the end it did matter. Personally, I was hoping to have a hundred years of interest credited to my savings account on January 2^{nd} . I have digressed enough – back to 2023.

Although I was not able to attend, I have been told by many attendees that the Christmas Dinner event in the fellowship hall at BPC was one of the best ones ever. We are very thankful for all those who worked to setup the church and facilitate the function. We are especially thankful for Kevin Sanders in his standup role as Santa Claus.

One of the biggest challenges facing each of us in this new year is the prospect of the continuing high rate of inflation. The significant increase in spending at the federal government level during the past year has been a major contributor to the cost of goods and services increasing at rates not seen in four decades. Down here at the local level, we need to keep a close watch on the spending habits of our new city council. Council members beholden to developers, builders, and special interest groups are not always voting in your best financial interest. Local taxes and fees are the ones that have the biggest impact on our household finances.

One area that has remained inflation-proof is your civic league dues. Through frugal, and only necessary, spending we can maintain the \$15 annual household civic league dues. Another factor that keeps the dues low is our large membership base. In 2022, we reached a level of nearly 400 member households in our 900-home community. The large membership base enables the board to fund the events, meetings, and maintenance functions of civic league within the available revenue. I would like to see our membership base grow beyond the 50 percent of the neighborhood level. Please do your part and become a member household. You will find a membership form and preaddressed envelope in this newsletter. Joining is painless and it helps to serve your community.

Around Christmas, we experienced some abnormally cold weather. That could well be a preview of things to come this winter. Those kinds of temperatures can be very difficult on people, especially our senior citizens. If you have elderly or disabled neighbors, please be sure to look out for them during any real cold spells. They may not ask you for help, but we all know they would surely appreciate your attention. Putting out or bringing in the trash cans may be routine for you, but it can be a real challenge for an elderly person. Let's all be good neighbors and help each other out.

Everyone, please join the civic league today.

John Eason

Happy New Year!

Thank you and your neighbors for being important participants in our Neighborhood Watch program the past year and helping to keep our crime rate very low. Everyone living in Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point and Governor Square is a part of our Neighborhood Watch. This past year there have been only a few reported crimes in our community. Don't become complacent, once crimes start it is very difficult to stop, continue to watch out for each other and report anything that appears to be suspicious to the police.

A vibrant Civic League is also essential in maintaining a low crime community. If you are not a member ---join today. It is one of the best bargains that you will find.

Scammers are criminals. Criminals wear masks or disguises so they can't be identified. Scammers call from telephone numbers that can't be identified.

I think we all have had people trying to scam us of our hard-earned money. Their favorite target is the elderly. Some of the reasons that scammers target senior citizens:

- Senior citizens are most likely to have a "nest egg," to own their home, and/or to have excellent credit—all of which make them attractive to con artists.
- People who grew up in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s were generally raised to be polite and trusting. Con artists exploit these traits, knowing that it is difficult or impossible for these individuals to say "no" or to just hang up the telephone.
- Elderly victims may not report crimes, for example, because they are concerned that relatives may think the victims no longer have the mental capacity to take care of their own financial affairs.
- Senior citizens are more interested in and susceptible to products promising increased cognitive function, virility, physical conditioning, anti-cancer properties, and so on.

If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Remember to keep your vehicles locked and valuables out of sight.

Wishing you have a safe, crime free and peaceful 2023.



CAR TIPS

Snow Driving Tips

Snow is one of the best parts of the difficult winter season, but even if we love to play in the snow, your car doesn't. Here are some tips for driving in the snow and icy conditions.

- Stay home! Only go out in the snow and ice if you must. Try to avoid it.
- Warm your car up. Allow your car's engine to get to operating temperature by letting it run for 10-20 minutes before driving.
- Keep your distance and look far ahead. Looking far ahead allows you time to anticipate your next move. By keeping your distance, you will have time to execute your next move with grace.
- Even if you have all wheel drive or four-wheel drive, be vigilant. It may feel like your car handles ice and snow perfectly, but it's ability to brake and steer on ice is still in jeopardy.
- The key to driving in the snow or ice is being smooth. Smooth and gentle with the steering, braking, and accelerating. Try to drive like you have a cup of hot coffee that you don't want to spill. Remember drastic movements break the traction your tires have with the road.
- Lastly, don't get a false sense of safety because of the technology found in today's vehicles. Antilock brakes, variable steering, and traction control make very little difference on snow and icy conditions.

Stay safe and happy motoring!

Maranda Forbes



Hello Neighbors,

Our annual membership drive is underway and we need your support! For a modest fee of \$15 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 1 January to 31 December. Please show your support by sending in the completed membership application along with your \$15 annual dues made out to the LST/HP/GS Civic League.

Membership entitles you and your household to participate in our many neighborhood events. Below are some of the services we provide to our members:

- Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Fall Festival and Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner
- Monthly membership meetings with guest speakers
- 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

Our civic league is very active and one of the best in Virginia Beach because of the strength of our membership. Please take a moment and join today!

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Name(s)	Please mail your check for \$15.00 to:
Address	
	P.O. Box 68883
Phone #	
e-mail	
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Dues are \$15.00 per household per Civic League The civic league is always looking for memb Please check any positions for which you would lik	Year which runs from January 1 to December 31 pers to volunteer in the following areas: te to volunteer – <i>(not required for membership)</i>

The civic league received new memberships or renewals from the following households between November 26, 2022, and December 22, 2022. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Dues are paid for calendar year 2022 unless otherwise noted. *

John & Susan Barnes (*thru 2023*) Jean & Keith Bowman (*thru 2024*) Rich & April Carney Jean & Roland Downing (*thru 2023*) Sam & Dovie Edge (*thru 2023*) Philip & Kate Fitzhugh (*thru 2023*) Jack Griswold (*thru 2023*) Joe & Sue Harper (*thru 2024*) Bryce & Melanie Little Joe & Pamela McNaught (*thru 2024*) Curtis & Lenora Powell (*thru 2023*) Kevin & Traci Sanders (*thru 2023*) Mike & Michele Sandifer (*thru 2023*) Bill & Issy Yoshida (*thru 2023*) Michael & Christina Yoshida (*thru 2023*)

How to Clean and Maintain Hardwood Floors

Identify the Right Cleaning Product

When it comes to choosing a product for a deeper clean, there isn't a hard-and-fast rule. Different finishes require different treatments, so all three experts suggest listening to the product recommendation of your flooring or finish manufacturer. However, it is safe to say there are products to always avoid. Don't use any kind of harsh chemical to clean any hardwood floor. Chemicals applied to the finish will create hazing. This can really build up over a period of six months to a year and doesn't look very good. You don't want to use anything that says it's going to polish or shine or rejuvenate or revitalize the wood floor. That's basically telling you that you're laying out something that's a supplemental product. It's putting something on that surface that'll make it pretty for a short period of time, but it's not designed to wear.

Keep Them (Pretty) Dry

Once you've found the right cleaning product, use it on the floors with a damp mop. You don't want to bring out a wet bucket and start soaking the floors because that'll cause the wood to swell, and the same for steam cleaning.

Know the Warning Signs

Wood reacts dramatically to temperature and humidity, so it's important to understand the environment that surrounds your floor.

If there's too much moisture on, around, or below the wood, it will cup. Eliminate the source of the water to stop this from occurring.

Exceedingly dry conditions induce gapping, cracking, and splitting. Here, a humidifier should do the trick.

Touch Up Surface Scratches

It doesn't feel good when you scratch your floor, but it's normal. It's part of owning a wood floor. If you do want to fix surface scratches, use a stain marker from a wood furniture touch-up kit. That should do the trick.

Recoat Before It's Too Late

When the floor is starting to wear down, it's time to step in and recoat. A recoat doesn't involve sanding, It's actually applying another coat of finish to the top of the floors to bring back the luster and life of that finish, so you don't have to go through the sanding process. This exercise can prolong a floor's life for many years by adding a layer of protection each time it's needed.

Ref article: https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/how-to-clean-and-maintain-hardwood-floors



DENTISTRY DONE RIGHT

DENTISTRY DONE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME SHOULD LAST A LIFETIME



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January 2023

www.LHGCL.org

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 faired 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: 653 detached and attached properties (historically low)

Pending: 342 properties are under contract and preparing to close

Sold: 7287 properties have sold in the past year Below are the price ranges for the homes SOLD:

0-\$100,000	12
\$101,000-\$200,000	765
\$201,000-\$300,000	2113
\$301,000-\$400,000	2078
\$401,000-\$500,000	993
\$501,000-\$600,000	435
\$601,000-\$700,000	258
\$701,000-\$800,000	170
\$801,000-\$900,000	160
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	71
\$1,100,000-\$2,000,000	172
\$2,100,000-\$3,000,000	20
\$3,100,000+	12

The lowest price sold in the past year was \$40,000 and the highest price was \$10,300,000. Future prices will be determined by the "supply and demand" as well as values of previously "SOLD" homes within the past 12 months.

Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)

Jean Bowman **Bowman Realty** Licensed in Virginia



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

4604 Copperfield Rd 4653 Bromfield Ave

4708 Five Forks Ct

948 Ferry Plantation Rd

FOR SALE

PENDING

So, you think it's cold in Virginia Beach. Hmmm



575 Lynnhaven Parkway, Suite 278, Virginia Beach Office 757-750-1555 | Cell 703-864-2733 brinkmangroupva@gmail.com livingbenefitsexperts.com/brinkmangroup5rf



HAYGOOD POINT

FOR SALE 825 Moultrie Ct

PENDING 801 De La Fayette Ct

SOLD 879 Five Forks Rd

GOVERNOR SQUARE

No Active Listings

Homes for Sale and Sold

in our Neighborhoods

Since November 2022



B. WMAN REALTY

Cell: (757) 286-7455 Office: (757) 325-5495 jean@bowmanrealtyva.com www.bowmanrealtyva.com

One Columbus Center, #629, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

CARC R

Jean Bowman Broker/Owner



7



Maintenance Special

\$24.99 Standard Oil Change

Free Alignment Check

Service Includes:

Full Service Oil Change & Seasonal Check-Up

For faster service please call ahead for an appointment. Shop supplies and taxes are not included. Most cars/light trucks. Oil change includes up to five quarts of motor oil and new filter. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Limited time only.

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

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 lendors, and inspectors also makes sense. When you're ready to buy or sell, give me a call.



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!

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 *

50% OFF Please let us know how we are doing! 1st Month ALLSAFE Lowest Rates Around! with this Clean, convenient, affordable SELF STORAGE coupon Affordable Virginia Beach and 4850 Haygood Ro **Norfolk Storage Units** rginia Beach, VA More than 30 years of experience Review us online@www.allsafeva.com

January 2023







Named for the Roman God Janus, protector of gates and doorways. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Make Some Noise

- In ancient Thailand, guns were fired to frighten off demons
- In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness
- In the early American colonies, the sounds of pistol shots rang through the air
- Today, Italians let their church bells peal, the Swiss beat drums, and North Americans sound sirens and party horns to bid the old year farewell

Eat Something Special

Many New Year traditions concern food, here are a few:

- In the southern United States, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune
- Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a donut) symbolizes "coming full circle" and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *olie bollen* are served.
- The Irish enjoy pastries called bannocks
- In India and Pakistan, rice promises posterity
- Apples dipped in honey are a Rosh Hashanah tradition
- In Spain and Mexico, the tradition is to have twelve green grapes, and at the hour of midnight one grape must be eaten upon every gong of the bell to have good luck in bringing in the new year.

• In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors (and allowed to remain there)

Drink a Beverage

- Although the pop of a champagne cork signals the arrival of the New Year around the world, some countries have their own traditions:
- "Wassail," the Gaelic term for "good health," is served in some parts of England.
- Spiced "hot pint" is the Scottish version of wassail. Traditionally, the Scots drink to each other's prosperity and also offered its warm drink to neighbors along with a small gift.
- In Holland, toasts are made with hot, spiced wine.

Give a Gift

- New Year's Day was once the time to swap presents.
- Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome.
- Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians.
- Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks. In Scotland, coal, shortbread, and silverware were traditionally exchanged for good luck.

Source: The Old Farmers Almanac/Almanac.com

Don't be left Stranded

Now that winter is with us, it is a wise choice to make sure you have an emergency kit in your vehicle(s) when traveling. Winter cold, snow and ice can cause many problems for vehicles on the road.

An emergency kit for your car is different from the one you would have in your home. The car kit should include jumper cables, flares, or reflective triangles, an ice scraper/brush, a cell phone charging cord, and cat litter or sand that can be used to provide traction if your car becomes stuck in snow. It is a good idea to include a shovel and a heavy blanket in your trunk as well. If you plan on taking a trip that will include rural areas, you should have enough blankets, food and water to keep you and your passengers safe should you need to wait for help to arrive in an emergency. Also make sure that you keep your phone charged and let loved ones know when you are leaving and when you plan to arrive at your destination, in case something should happen to you along your route.



Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday, January 24th This week only at Old Dominion Episcopal Church, 4449 N. Witchduck Rd Social 6:30, Program 7:00



The Whitehurst-Buffington House is one of the 50 most historically significant structures in Virginia Beach. It was built as a farmhouse in 1793, a year after

Last month the Whitehurst Buffington House

Foundation held an open house. The floral

holiday decor was provided by the Virginia

Beach Council of Garden Clubs. Our Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club's own Mildred

Dyson hand-crafted the beautiful dining room table display. There was a lot of ooo-ing and ahh-ing over Mildred's arrangement – all

richly deserved, (see centerpiece picture).

Our Meeting This Month will be held at the Old Donation Episcopal

Church (January 24TH) featuring a presentation by Forester Kendall Topping. She will provide insight into the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), its programs and the challenges posed by deforestation. Kendall is the primary contact for forest landowner assistance, forest management services, and community forestry assistance at

the first lighthouse at Cape Henry. Later in 1820, Commissioner **Daniel Whitehurst** authorized the building of a new courthouse and jail on property near his farm. Today, the Virginia Beach Courthouse sits across the street from the Whitehurst-Buffington House. James (Jay) W. Buffington later maintained the property until 1984. Now, the not-for-profit Whitehurst -Buffington House Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of this historic home as a living example of early Virginia life.

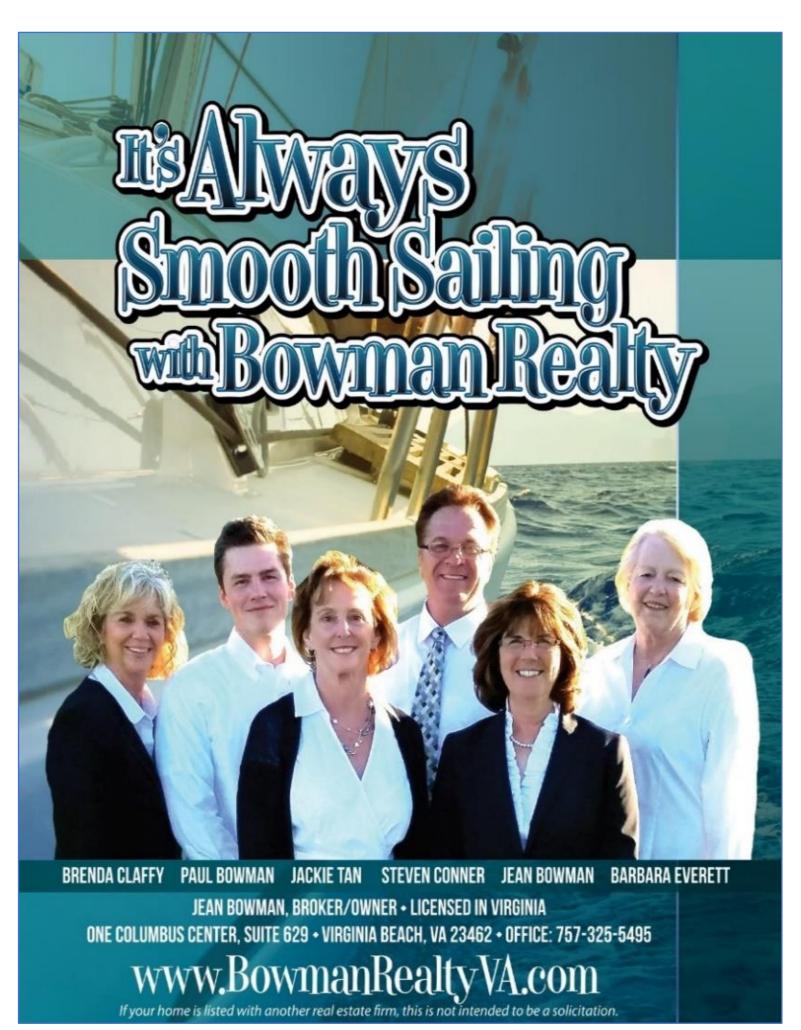


The local level, Virginia Beach.Factoid: VDOF collects a variety of species of acorns and nuts that can be planted at its Augusta Nursery (Crimora, Va.) to grow into tree seedlings. These will become the forests of tomorrow. So, neighbors, if the squirrels have overlooked any loose nuts in your yard please collect some for Kendall.



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 (starting in March after our anniversary luncheon meeting in February). Contact: Sylvia Williams, Membership Chair @ (717) 332-0688 or Keren Pernini, President @ (757) 589-8463 for more information or just come to a meeting!

Photo Courtesy of Debbi Babashanian



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