

# Lake Smith Ripples



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

February 2023

Volume 26, Issue 6

## Happy Valentine's Day

### Civic League Scholarship Deadline is 30 April

The Civic League will be awarding its annual \$500 scholarship to a deserving 2023 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. Visit our website ([www.lhgcl.org](http://www.lhgcl.org)) to learn more about eligibility requirements, instructions, and application. Deadline for the application is 30 April 2023.

Check out our website - [www.LHGCL.org](http://www.LHGCL.org)

### Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, 21 February  
Bayside Presbyterian Church

Social Period - 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting called to order - 7:00 p.m.

Presentation

**History of the Bayside Area**

by

**Dr. Peter C. Stewart**  
Professor Emeritus  
Old Dominion University  
Department of History

**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: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to  
month of publication.**

Ripples-Newsletter@googlegroups.com

**President's Corner**

We have made it all the way to February with no snowfall – do you think we will have a snowless winter? Were you here in 1980? If so, you should remember the big snowstorm with the circus in town. Then the blizzard on March 2<sup>nd</sup> that brought this area to a standstill for days. Could it happen again – wait and see. And now that it is February, how many of you are still staying true to your New Year's resolutions? Do you remember what they were? Well, maybe next year.

If we do have a hard freeze, and a layer of ice forms on Lake Smith, please do not be tempted to go on the ice. Lake ice in our area is never sufficiently thick enough to support a person – even a young child. Let's not have any tragedies this winter.

I encourage everyone to visit our website ([www.LHGCL.org](http://www.LHGCL.org)) often. Our webmaster, Don Krudop, is doing an excellent job maintaining and expanding the website. You may want to make the website your homepage on your browser. Don would welcome ideas you may have for future pages on the site.

It's early in the new year, the city council elections are behind us, and there is already talk of a possible need for increasing some fees on our utility (water) bills. Now that the COVID money from the federal government is gone, we need our city manager and department heads to live within the available revenue stream without going to the well – that would be us - for more. It's what we all have to do as we adapt our household budgets to live within our means. Most of us do not have a money well in the back yard. It's the city council that would need to approve any increases, and we, and hopefully the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations, will be watching and writing letters.

The civic league membership drive for 2023 is looking good. As of January 25<sup>th</sup> we had 204 household on the roster with dues paid for this year – and some for future years. A list of members is in this newsletter. I encourage everyone living in the neighborhood to take a minute and join the civic league. Whether you own or rent, if you live here, we welcome you to become a civic league member. Our low annual household dues of just \$15 have not increased in several years. I know people who spend that much at Starbucks in two visits. All revenue received by the civic league is used for the civic league administration, events, meetings, and this newsletter. There are no paid staff in the civic league. We are all volunteers who also pay dues each year. So, if you haven't yet sent in your check, please do it today. We need your support.

Our newsletter editor, Rick DeJaegher, has a need for part-time reporter and photographer. Do you have a high school student in your home with a future career goal in journalism or photography? If so reach out to Rick at [rhdejaegher@gmail.com](mailto:rhdejaegher@gmail.com). It could be a rewarding opportunity.

Stay warm but keep those snow shovels handy.

*John Eason*

## Changing the Air Filters in Your Home

Changing the air filters in your HVAC system is an essential practice that ensures clean air circulates throughout your home. Without a clean air filter, your HVAC unit works harder and is prone to more breakdowns. Compared to other DIY home improvement projects, changing air filters is a quick and painless process that can be done in less than an hour.

### Why Changing Your Filter Is Important

Air filters trap pet hair, dust, and other irritating particles so that your air conditioning system delivers fresh, clean air back into your home. Eventually, the filter traps so much dust and debris that air can't properly filter or travel to the HVAC unit, leading to:

- **High energy bills**—When an HVAC filter is clogged, your system must work harder to pull air through to cool or heat the room. This causes it to run for longer periods of time, increasing the energy your home uses.
- **Health concerns**—If a filter isn't working properly, dust and allergens can circulate throughout your home and cause allergies and respiratory illnesses.
- **System failure**—An HVAC system has to work hard to pull air through a clogged filter. This continuous strain on the unit can cause it to break down, causing you to pay for expensive repairs or replacements.

### When to Change Your Air Filter

You should ideally change your air filter every three months, however, there are certain factors to consider when determining when to change out an old filter.

- **Type of air filter**—Some air filters are more effective than others. Lower quality fiberglass filters are more affordable, but they don't last long and need to be changed every month. Pleated air filters are high-quality filters that are very effective in trapping particles and last up to 90 days.



- **Pets**—If you own pets, change your filters every two months to keep your air clean.
- **Allergies**—If you suffer from allergies, even the smallest amount of dust or debris in the air can trigger a reaction. To ensure your system is pumping only clean air, change your filters about every 50 days.
- **Children**—If you have young children in the home, keep the indoor air quality high by replacing your air filters every two months.
- **Home use**—Homes that use their HVAC system daily need more frequent air filter replacements than a vacation home that doesn't filter air regularly. If your home's heating and cooling system only runs a few times a year, replace the air filters every six to 12 months.

### How to Change Your Filter

Here's how to change your air filter when it's time for a replacement.

1. **Purchase the right size filter(s)**—To find the size of your filter, check the old filter, which should have the size printed on one of its sides. If you can't locate the size of the old filter, use a measuring tape to check its length, width, and depth.
2. **Turn off your unit**—Flip the switch on your thermostat to turn off the unit or turn your system completely off at the circuit breaker.
3. **Locate the filter**—Your air filter is located in one of two places: a return duct shielded by a vent cover inside your home, or at the air entry point of the air handler of your HVAC system located in the attic or in a utility closet.
4. **Remove the grille or cover to the air filter**—If your air filter is located in the system's air handler, open the access panel. This may require a screwdriver to remove the small screws securing it. If your filter is in the return duct, flip the latches that hold the grille and remove it.
5. **Remove the old filter and insert the new one**—Remove the old filter from its place, carefully inspecting how it was situated inside the cover or grille. Take the new filter, write the date on it and place it inside, making sure the airflow arrows are pointed into the unit.
6. **Replace the cover and turn your system on**—After replacing the filter, turn your system back on to ensure the filter is situated correctly and the air conditioner is running smoothly.

Greetings Neighbors! Our Membership drive is under way and we need your help! Our goal this year is to reach 450 members! You can help your civic league reach its membership goal by joining today. Please show your support by mailing in the completed form on page 5, along with your \$15 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League.

Membership dues allows us to fund neighborhood events and provide our newsletter to each household. We really need your support!!!

This is a list of all civic league member households current as of 1-25-2023. Membership dues are paid for calendar year 2023 unless otherwise noted. If your household is not listed here, please send in your \$15 membership dues today to help support the civic league that represents the best neighborhoods in Virginia Beach.

Disa Adams	Doug & Megan Earlenbaugh (2024)	Grace Lawrence (2024)
Martin & Rinda Albert	John & Edi Eason (2025)	Robert & Ruth LeMay (2024)
Bobby Armes	Sam & Dovie Edge	Jay Lovejoy
Curt & Carol Bailey	Jan Edwards	Clayton Lovell & Tina Cochran
Bill & Sandy Baker (2024)	Robert & Sherri Elliott	Michael & Sarah Lovely
Skip & Claudia Banner (2025)	Justin & Tara Erbe (2025)	Pat Lowe (2024)
Thomas & Lynne Bannister	Jean Ervin	Chase Lozito
Elsie Barnes (2024)	Richard & Maureen Fedorowicz (2024)	Christina Lozito
John & Susan Barnes	John Fedorowicz & Caroline Tetschner	Daniel & Yvonne Lyall (2024)
B.T Beatty & Alan Wombles (2025)	Philip & Kate Fitzhugh	Bill Marchand
Donald & Leatrice Belanger	Wayne & Teen Foshay (2024)	Frank & Judy Marlow
Bill & Rhonda Bertholf	Lauren & John Fuller	Ashley May
Tom & Carolyn Betz (2024)	Betty Fultz	Cecil Mays & Katherine Holmes (2027)
Margaret Bobst & Family (2024)	Ken & Karen Garrison	Howard \$ Anna McCoy
Ron & Roberta Bock	Ronald & Paula Garrison (2024)	Jim McNamara & Rich Loftus
Matt & Rose Bouchonville	Daniel & Monica Gilliam	Joe & Pamela McNaught (2024)
Keith & Jean Bowman (2024)	Bobby & Krystal Gilliland	Paul Meise
Andy & Jackie Brnyan	Betty Given	Gloria Mendoza (2024)
Bob & Jeanine Breatl	Jack Griswold	Michael & Christina Messer
Heather & Scott Brinkman	James & Sheila Grix	Roger Miles
Barry & Linda Brock	Carl Gustafson & Pat Tepovich (2029)	Meredith & Joshua Miller (2024)
Judy Buccina	Bill & Haas	Andy & Kay Mitchell (2024)
Scott Buchwald (2024)	Harry, Mary Jo & Catherine Hall	David & Christina Morrow
Cody Buhler & Elizabeth Miranda	Danny & Claive Hampton (2024)	Louis & Kay Noah
Bob Burinskas (2032)	James & Patricia Handrahan	Eleanor & Paul Nolan (2024)
Tim & Pat Caddy (2024)	J. Lamar & Charlotte Hannah	Eric & Ethel Norfleet
Karina & Joe Campbell	Joe & Sue Harper (2024)	Diana Novak & Roy Blakeburn (2024)
Maxine Carey	Perry Harrell	Ronald & Elizabeth Oates (2024)
Peter & Becky Cervenka	Joe & Laura Hennessy (2024)	Marie Parr
Mike & Annette Cherwa (2024)	Robert & Joanne Herd	Nancy Pasqualino
Nida & Bob Christianson	Jason & Jenn Hicks	Jim & Keren Pernini (2024)
Ron & Dawn Cimbala)	Don & Glenda Holcomb (2024)	Ralph & Annegrete Peterson
Darlene Cleveland	Bill & Mary Ann Holda (2024)	Bobby & Jo Pollard
Paul & Sue Cooper	David & Sandy Huband	Arnali Pons, Orzuri Rique & Ainara Pons-Rique
Mary Ann Conrad (2024)	Susan Hughes (2025)	Joe & Mary Jane Porter
Roger & Trisha Cote	Shannon Hurley & James Blustein	Curtis & Lenora Powell
Grant & Lynn Coull	Ada Jaquith (2025)	Whitney & Karisa Powell
Tara & Robert Council	Mike & Evonne Jaret	Lenore Quandt
Margaret Crawford	Ron Jesberg	Jose & Delores Ramirez (2026)
Jimmy & Alison Creamer	Wiley & Vicki Johnson	Dick & Joanne Rentner
Lyn & Mary Jayne Crutchfield	Mike & Marti Jones	Keane & Gay Robbins
Sara Lou Davis (2024)	James T. Jones, Jr.	Chad & Jenna Roberts
James & Mary Dean (2025)	Phil & Chris Jones	Deanna & Bob Rumney
Connie & Esther Debord	Dana & Patty Kelly	Barbara Ryan & Jim Dunham
Dean, Jill & Leah Decarlis (2024)	Willem & Else Kernkamp	Kevin & Traci Sanders
Rick & Kathy DeJaegher (2025)	Lisa & Wayne Killmon	Mike & Michele Sandifer
Bob & BJ Derring	Patrick & Marinda Kimidy	Heinz & Pilar Seyrlehner (2024)
Robert Destefano	Doug & Robin Kircheval (2024)	Dede Schultz
Jane Dochtermann	Joe & Kellee Kraft	Bill & Lori Sheedy
Ed & Debbie Douglas	John & Alexis Krenzke	Richard & Andrea Sherman (2024)
Roland & Jean Downing	Sam Kroll & Nancy Harris-Kroll (2025)	Marco & Tracy Sifuentes
Kathy Duncan	Curly & Nieva Ladrillono	
Scottie & Spring Dyer	Jim & Leslie Lampella (2024)	

**Continued on page 5**



**Membership Continued**

- Colin & Sharon Smith
- Duane & Ruby Smith
- Joshua & Melissa Smith
- John & Denise Snee
- Robert L. Souders
- Steve & Jeanette Stallings (2025)
- George & Myra Stein
- Steve & Barb Stevens (2024)
- Phyllis Suggs (2026)
- Ann Sutliff
- Irene Sutton
- Tracy Tate
- Linda Terrien (2026)
- Barrett & Rick Tharrington
- Traute Thiesz (2024)
- Gary & Nancalee Thompson
- Eylem Tirsi
- Beth & Jim Toone
- Tom & Michelle Tyree
- Mark & Abigail Ufford
- Bill & Jody Ullmann
- Mickey & Wyllys VanDerwerker
- Frank Vanelle
- David & Alisa Velky
- Al & Monli Wallace
- Carolyn Walsh (2024)
- Allen & Debra Waters
- Sharon Weitzel
- Courtney & Leroy Whorton (2024)
- Carol Wicks
- Steve & Terri Wilkins (2024)
- Jim & Angie Willenbrink
- Carlisle & Gayle Wilson (2024)
- James & Elizabeth Wilson (2030)
- Leigh Winston
- Tom & Sheryl Winter
- Thomas & Yen Nan Wong (2027)
- Rick & Sandy Woolard
- Katherine & Philip Xefteris (2024)
- Bill & Issy Yoshida
- Michael & Christina Yoshida
- Alvin & Nina Young (2024)
- Erin & Brent Zabel
- Moustafa & Zaia Zerhouni (2026)
- Constance Zuidema

How is everyone doing with their New Year Resolutions? I hope you are doing better than I did. I have to admit that I only made it about a week.

Incidents of criminal activity in our neighborhood have been way down the past couple of months. The cold weather played a small part in this but you are the main reason for the drop in crime. Neighbors watching out for other neighbors, that is what Neighborhood Watch is all about. Neighborhoods in which people are truly concerned about each other and their mutual safety have extremely low crime rates.

Here are some things that will help to keep crime down.

- Do not leave your vehicles unlocked.
- Do not leave anything of value visible from outside your vehicle.
- Park in your driveway or garage if possible.
- Keep sheds and garages locked.
- Leave your outside lights on all night.
- Become more involved in your community, join your Civic League.

If you are leaving town:

- Alert a trusted neighbor
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery
- Install timers on interior and exterior lights
- Leave a car parked in your driveway or ask a neighbor to park their car in your driveway

If you suspect anything out of the ordinary, see suspicious people or see suspicious activity in the neighborhood: call the VBPD non-emergency number, 385-5000. Give them a description of the person or persons and describe why you feel they are acting suspicious. If you see an actual crime being committed or about to be committed, call VBPD at **911 immediately**.

Some of us may be hesitant to report suspicious people or vehicles fearing that we will be regarded as “snoops”. Your own neighbors are your single best security device. The greatest deterrent to a would-be criminal is the fear of getting caught. Each concerned citizen is another pair of eyes to let the criminal know that he is being watched. You are a vital part of Neighborhood Watch. One or two people cannot watch 907 homes. It takes all of us to do our part. Thank you for doing your part it’s paying off.

**Civic League Membership Form – New or Renewal**

(Please print)

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your check for \$15.00 to:**

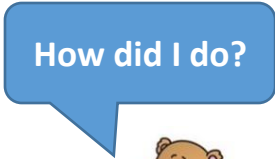
LST/HP/GS Civic League  
 P.O. Box 68883  
 VA Beach, VA 23471

*(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             |





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Over the past few months, the number of settled sales has somewhat “slowed”, mostly due to low inventory. Days on the market are a little longer for some homes, others are under contract in a matter of days! Prices have increased and so have interest rates, creating an affordability issue for some buyers and they are forced to rent. With such a short supply of homes it has continued to be a “seller’s market”.

The City of Virginia Beach is experiencing a housing shortage. There are only 570 active listings (attached and detached homes) and out of those 210 are under contract which leaves only 360 properties available to purchase. If you consider the City of Virginia Beach has a population of approximately 465,000 people, that is a very low supply of available homes.

It is not uncommon to experience multiple offers on a home for sale due to the low available inventory, but we are not receiving as many offers that we did in the Spring of 2022. The current housing situation is making it more challenging for buyers to even find a home.

Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)

Jean Bowman  
Bowman Realty  
Licensed in Virginia

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



**LAKE SMITH TERRACE**

**FOR SALE**

No Active Listings

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4604 Copperfield Rd  
948 W Ferry Plantation Rd

**Sold**

4708 Five Forks Ct

**HAYGOOD POINT**

**FOR SALE**

4605 Chippendale Ct  
825 Moultrie Ct

**SOLD**

801 De La Fayette Ct

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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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> one free!**

## SonRise @ Pembroke Manor Christian Church



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[www.SonRiseVB.church](http://www.SonRiseVB.church)

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- \* Casual Dress \*
- \* Small Group Bible Studies \*

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# Trash Talk

## Keeping Curbs and Gutters Free of Trash and Debris

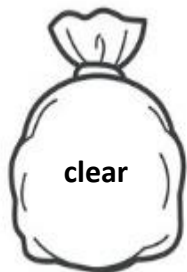
The city and residents share responsibilities for keeping curbs and gutters free of obstructions. A city contractor sweeps the streets six times a year, and residents are responsible for everything up to the point where the gutter meets the road pavement.

On the cities end, Public Works has contracted with an outside company to provide street sweeping services on public roads throughout Virginia Beach. They are out every day between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. However, there are about 3,000 miles of roads in our city – about the same distance from Virginia Beach to San Francisco! Even with multiple vehicles working the streets every day, it takes about two months to reach all of the roads in the program, and then the process starts all over again.

The responsibilities for residents are laid out in the City's Code of Ordinances: **residents are responsible for keeping the sidewalks, curbs and any right-of-way in front of their property, up to the point where the concrete gutter meets the road pavement (in our neighborhoods the black asphalt)**, free and clear of debris and litter. It's all part of keeping our neighborhoods safe and attractive.

Keeping the curbs and gutters clear and free flowing helps ensure trash and yard waste doesn't enter the lake and pond or find its way into our storm drains preventing them from properly handling stormwater runoff. To prevent flooding and maintain water quality, clear yard waste away from drains and avoid blowing or raking leaves into the street or ditches.

Make sure bagged yard waste and trash cans set out for collection doesn't block the water flow – always leave a few inches of space so stormwater can freely flow along the gutters.



Leaves, grass and yard debris.  
Maximum 25 clear plastic bags  
weighing no more than 25 lbs.  
each.



Tree limbs max 4 ft. long and  
6 inches in diameter. Piles max  
4' long X 4' wide X 4' high

## Yard Debris Collection

This service is provided by the city on our normal collection day, Wednesday, and does not require a work order. Residents may place yard debris at curbside for collection as follows:

Limbs up to 6 inches in diameter will be collected in a pile not to exceed **4 feet long X 4 feet wide X 4 feet high**.

You may also dispose of smaller yard debris, such as grass and leaves (no dirt, rocks, mulch or root balls) in up to **25 clear plastic bags, weighing not more than 25 pounds per bag**.

The mulching of leaves and grass clippings is recommended instead of bagging and dragging them to the curb.

**Tree Removal Debris** is not collected at the curbside. However, it can be collected through the yard debris container program, provided each piece is no larger than 6 inches in diameter. *(Please note that work done by private contractors must be disposed of by the contractor.)* Roll-off containers 13 X 7 X 5 ft are available and may be scheduled for an a.m. or p.m. delivery. Containers delivered on Friday will be picked up on Monday. Cost for the service is \$40 for weekdays and \$75 for weekends. Call 757 385 4650 to schedule.

## Bulk Item Pickup

Doesn't fit in the can? Can't donate or re-purpose or re-use? Call 757.385.4650 for Bulk Item Pickup. Acceptable items for pickup include furniture, mattresses/box springs, large appliances, fencing, lawnmowers, outdoor equipment/furniture, area rugs up to 9 X 12, Sheds and outdoor grills.



## Landfill

Items not included can be taken to the City of Virginia Beach Landfill and Resource Recovery Center located at 1989 Jake Sears Road Tuesday- Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more info:

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/pw-waste-management/Pages/curbside-services.aspx>





## Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club

We're taking a break this month for our 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon!

Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence @ Ewell Road

### BRIGHTENING THE WINTER MONTHS

By Barbara Pritchard

In the winter when trees and shrubs have dropped their fiery leaves, you can still enjoy ample color in the various shades of evergreen foliage, tree and shrub bark, berries, dried grasses, and the seed heads of some perennials. The bark of certain deciduous trees, such as Birch, Eastern Sycamore or the shiny leaves of Holly, and ivy will delight your eye after most herbaceous plants have gone dormant for the winter.

Just as winter takes it hold on the landscape, up pop little bright flowers ... these are hellebores, also known as the Christmas Rose or Lenten Rose. This gem is a perennial evergreen, featuring blooms with five petal, cup-shaped flowers. During the rest of the year its bright green foliage adds depth to shady areas of the garden.

By late winter, small bulb shoots are already pushing their way out of the soil. The delicate snowdrops are among the first to bloom, quickly followed by crocuses and other small bulbs and by the blossoming of shrubs such as Witch Hazel and Forsythia. From then on there is no stopping the show of Spring flowering hyacinths, daffodils and tulips. If you have planned carefully, you can enjoy the sequential blooms of rhododendron species, flowering cherries, magnolias, dogwoods, lilac, viburnums, and a host of other blooms that will creep over the ground, wind their tendrils up fences and bloom overhead.

In our area, daffodils are already waking up from their long winter's nap and soon will be showing their glorious blooms for all of us to enjoy. These little beauties are one of the first signs that Old Man Winter might be on his way out and a beautiful Spring will follow!!! Happy Gardening!!!

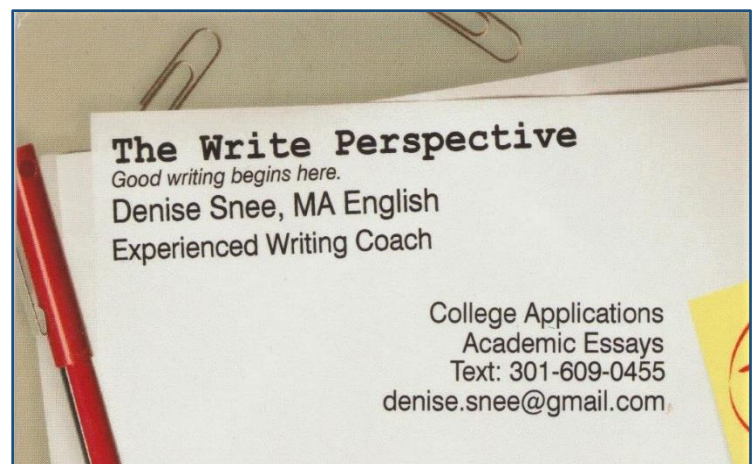
**Drink Coffee:** For an inexpensive and easy way to keep your flowers and plants looking beautiful, look to coffee grounds. What would normally get tossed out can be used all around your garden to keep pests away, enhance your soil, and beef up your compost pile. Balancing "green" and "brown" in the

winter compost pile is a snap with coffee grounds ... they count as green versus the abundant brown leaves. So, when at Starbucks, ask for a side of grounds with your Espresso Macchiato. Honest, folks, the environment will love it!

**Coming Attractions:** *The Whisperer* was an American old time radio program which broadcast on NBC. You won't remember if you're not old enough (or too embarrassed to admit it). Either way, you can now catch up. Our guest at the March meeting is a whisperer, the **Plant Whisperer**.

Alexandra Whiteside will enthrall us with whispers, but loud enough for us to hear. Her subject is **Floriography**, or the language of flowers ... a means of cryptological communication through the use or arrangement of flowers. Meaning has been attributed to flowers for thousands of years, and some form of floriography has been practiced in many traditional cultures throughout the world. Interest in floriography soared in Victorian England and the US during the 19th century. Gifts of blooms, plants, and specific floral arrangements were used to send

a coded message to the recipient, allowing the sender to express feelings which could not be spoken aloud in Victorian society. Armed with floral dictionaries, Victorians often exchanged small "talking bouquets", called fustie-mussies or nosegays which could be worn or carried as a fashion accessory. All of this, and more, without the fuss, at our next regular meeting on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, social 6:30, Meeting 7:00. **New members are welcome**





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