

Lake Smith Ripples



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

March 2023

Volume 26, Issue 7

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th, 10:00 a.m.
Haygood Point Park

**Mark your
Calendar!**

🐰 **1800 candy filled eggs will be provided for egg hunters between Ages 0-11 yrs.** (Some will have tokens for prizes inside).

🐰 **Egg hunting will be conducted simultaneously in three separate age groups- ages 2 and below, 3-5 years and 6-11 years**

🐰 **The Easter egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 AM, so don't be late!**

🐰 **Each child should bring their own Easter basket to gather eggs.**

🐰 **Cupcakes and drinks will be provided**

🐰 **The Easter Bunny will be available for Photos.**



Goodies and fun for the family!

This is a free event for Civic League member households. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews! Not a member? Not a problem! You can join at the event for just \$15 per household. Non-member guests \$5.00

2023 Scholarship Fund Update

The civic league's annual scholarship fund has received a \$200 gift from a generous resident who desires to remain anonymous. Our annual \$500 scholarship is funded by the proceeds from our 50:50 Raffles. **This year's scholarship now stands at \$700 thanks to this gift.** The donor was inspired by the writings of a 5th Century BC Greek Philosopher named Diogenes who wrote: "The Future of Every State is the Education of its Youth." This is as true today as it was 2800 years ago.

The Civic League will be awarding the **\$700 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) to learn more about eligibility requirements, instructions, and application. Deadline for the application is 30 April 2023.

Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, 21 March
Bayside Presbyterian Church

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

Presentation

Meet the new Commanding Officer
at the VBPD 3rd Precinct

Captain Douglas Guevara
will introduce himself and will
discuss plans for the 3rd Precinct

**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

It's difficult to believe Daylight Savings Time and the vernal equinox, are almost upon us, and it will even look more like Spring when the St. Patrick's Day decorations appear on Clymer Ct. What happened to the winter we didn't have? It may have moved to California this year. Oddly, it snowed in Las Angeles on the day it was 80 degrees in Virginia Beach. Global warming or simply a cyclical climate phase? Perhaps we will have a cool summer. Of course, we will take whatever comes our way.

Our civic league has valued its membership in, and consistently supported, the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) for decades. Both organizations have been in existence for more than 60 years. The VBCCO is an umbrella organization with membership open to the more than 140 civic organizations in Virginia Beach. Small and large neighborhoods share equal voices at the VBCCO where each member organization is entitled to two voting representatives. We need this organization to provide the city's residents a voice to offset the influence of developers, builders, and special interest groups. Unfortunately, the ravages of COVID-19 coupled with poor leadership sidelined the VBCCO for the past two years or so. Now, a newly formed steering committee is restructuring the organization with the goal of returning it to its intended purpose. The VBCCO is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the board of directors. If you are interested, contact me.

I review all the civic league membership forms as they're received. The information is recorded on the roster and on the league's email broadcast list. Occasionally, I find forms that tend to take me back to my days in elementary school. A bygone era when we learned and practiced how to print, followed by writing in cursive, until it became engrained. The only keyboards were typewriters with ribbons and carriage returns - but no Enter, Ctrl or Alt keys. This month I was pleased to receive membership forms from the Buckley and Tonnesen households that appeared to have been completed by students from the school I attended. Thank you - I always appreciate good penmanship on those forms.

Two years ago, we learned of a plan to install a new traffic light at the intersection of Paul Revere Rd and Independence Blvd. In conjunction with discussions with the Virginia Beach Traffic Engineer assigned the project, we developed several alternatives to a new traffic light at that location. A new light would present potential problems for our neighborhood, especially with increased thru traffic on our residential streets - those with no sidewalks. Our late councilman Louis Jones, and former councilman John Moss, both received a thorough briefing from traffic engineering, and both came away opposing the new traffic light on Independence Boulevard. The civic league delivered our statement of opposition to the Virginia Beach city manager, along with our proposed alternatives, and a petition signed by more than 290 of our residents opposing the new traffic light. No further action has taken place in the ensuing time; however residents have recently reported there has been some underground utility locating and marking activity in the vicinity of that intersection. In the event any further movement occurs on this project, this civic league, representing over 900 homes, remains firmly opposed to the installation of a traffic signal at Paul Revere and Independence and will continue to vigorously defend our position.

I encourage all residents to attend the civic league meeting on March 21, 2023. We have invited the newly appointed commanding officer at the VBPD Third Precinct to come and introduce himself and talk about his plans for our precinct going forward. Let's have good turnout for Captain Douglas Guevara.

John Eason

Crime in our neighborhoods of Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point and Governor Square has been practically unheard of so far this winter, but the nearby neighborhood of Lake View Shores had a recent home break in on Braddock Avenue. It appears that it occurred between, February 21 – 23. The rear exterior door was heavily damaged to gain entry and the house was ransacked and both large and small items were stolen. This location is just a few blocks from Lake Smith Terrace. The police are investigating.

Not all homes are broken into at night. Make your home look like someone is there during the day also. It's a good idea to leave exterior lights on at night but if they are on all day it will appear that no one is home. Turn the exterior lights off as you leave for work or put the lights on a timer if you will be away for any length of time. If you will be going out of town for an extended period alert a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are gone.

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer hours of daylight, more people will be out and about (and not always with the best intentions). Please stay alert and aware of your surroundings. Be sure to remove all valuables and especially guns when exiting your vehicle, and **lock** it up. When the people that are roaming through neighborhoods flipping vehicle door handles hoping to find one that's unlocked find one with a hand gun it's like they won the Lottery. These are the last people that we want to be in possession of a firearm. How would you feel if a deadly crime was traced back to your gun that was stolen from your unlocked vehicle?

Don't leave out bicycles, yard equipment, or other items that thieves may be tempted to take from your yard or driveway. Your home is your castle and it's important that you and your family feel safe there. Being aware of your surroundings and paying attention to what happens in your neighborhood is an important part of your safety. The police cannot monitor our homes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but your neighbors can help watch yours and you can keep watch on theirs.

While it has never been said that criminals play fair, it is even harder to accept when they target those that are especially vulnerable - our senior citizens. **REMEMBER:** If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is! Always do your homework first. Never give out your personal information in response to a call or email, and **NEVER** allow someone into your home without carefully verifying their identity. Don't rush into a "deal". Talk it over with a trusted family

member or friend before committing to any unsolicited business deal.

We know what is normal for our community. If you see anything or anybody that looks suspicious call the police. Our police force is working for us and it's their job to investigate suspicious activity. An investigation rarely results in an arrest, but sometimes it does and could result in getting a dangerous criminal off of our streets! Call the VBPD non-emergency number at 385-5000 if you see something or someone suspicious, trust your instincts. Call 911 immediately if you see an actual crime being committed.



CAR TIPS

Spring Vehicle Checklist

- Washer fluid: Spring is on its way, and inevitably so is pollen. Pollen on your windshield can interfere with your vision of the road. Make sure your washer fluid is topped off to ensure you can clean any pollen from your windshield.
- Windshield wiper blades: April showers are just around the corner. Make sure your wiper blades can effectively clear your windshield without leaving any streaks that could obstruct your view.
- Battery: Winter puts a strain on car batteries so now that winter is coming to a close, get your battery checked to ensure it has enough life left to get through the spring.
- Check cooling system: With warmer weather coming, your vehicle's cooling system is extremely important. Flush your cooling system to ensure your coolant is free of debris. Check all coolant hoses to ensure they're not brittle or susceptible to collapsing.

Maranda Forbes/Prottime Automotive

“Spring” into the season and join our neighborhood Civic League! The \$15 annual household membership dues help to support the civic league that works on your behalf every day. Please show your support by sending in the completed form along with your \$15 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. A special “thank you” to all who have joined for 2023. It is greatly appreciated!

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 January 25th, and February 24th, 2023. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Memberships are for 2023 unless otherwise noted.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Paul & Jane Ackiss (2024) | Daniel & Monica Gilliam (2024) | Andrea Nichols |
| Floyd Anderson (2026) | Paula & Mike Graham | Danna & Carl Oderman (2025) |
| Stan & Sue Ballard | Jack Griswold (2026) | Jerry & Chris Payne |
| Jim & Joan Beauchamp | Tricia Hartman | Boyd & Betty Wade Perry |
| Ellen Bell (2024) | Edie Heinbockel | Gloria Piacun (2024) |
| Nick Blank & Katie McGoff | Donnie & Glenda Holcomb (2025) | Joe & Mary Jane Porter (2024) |
| Douglas & Diane Boyd | Rebecca Howard & Ray Bossola | Joe & Mabel Quartararo |
| Janie Brown (2024) | Judy Jackson | Barry & Judy Rudacille |
| Steve & Donna Buckley | Alex & Nancy Josey (2024) | Joanne M. Sanderson |
| Jerry & Dassa Carvey | Willem & Else Kernkamp (2024) | Marilyn Schluter |
| Jim & Susan Cherwa | Bernie & Doug Kinloch | Allison & Bradley Schoultz |
| Eddier & Monica Chisolm (2024) | Werner & Linette Knocklein | Ray & Claudia Shourds & John Ross (2024) |
| Cameron & Rick Cook (2024) | Mike & Kathryn Kressel | Aaron Skellenger |
| Kevin & Hunter Cooper (2024) | Ned & Judy Kuhns (2025) | Louise Slate |
| Norman Craig | Mike & Jan Lambiase (2024) | Hannah & Ilya Sobol |
| Tracy Creamer (2025) | Bill & Bonnie Leitsch | Jacob & Jessica Steinmetz |
| Barry & Sharon Cruthers | Jane & Ed Martin | Rick & Christi Stephens |
| Kris & Margret Curling (2026) | Greg & Diana Mathews (2024) | Ann Sutliff (2025) |
| Angela Diaz | Tim & LouEllen McCarthy (2024) | Renate Thurman |
| Michael, Sr. & Yvette Dunbar | Jack & Jacquie Molovinsky | Erik & Angela Tonnesen |
| Brandon & Leah Durant | Robert & Sarah Moro | Nancy Traylor & Kelly Jackson |
| Larry & Carolyn Eakin | Betty Moye | Charles & Sharon Votava |
| Mr. & Mrs. Casey Fraysier | Bill & Patsy Nee | Chris & Liz Williams |
| Sami & Carol Ghosn | | |

How to Paint a Metal Mailbox: Step-by-Step Guide

Prep The Mailbox

The first thing you need to do is remove the entire mailbox from wherever it is attached. This will likely be a metal or wooden post, or a wall. If you cannot remove the mailbox, then cover the wall or mailbox post with some painter's tape or masking paper. If any parts (like a hook, latch, house numbers or flag) can be removed from the mailbox, now is the time to remove them. If you cannot remove these parts, you will be able cover them later with masking paper or painter's tape.

Clean The Mailbox

Spray the mailbox with an all-purpose cleaner and scrub all the dirt off with a scrubbing brush. After you have cleaned the mailbox, rinse it in water and leave it to dry completely. Use sandpaper, a sanding block, steel wool, or a wire brush to remove any remaining mold or loose rust. Even if there is no visible mold or rust, you should still sand down your mailbox so that you have a smooth surface to work with. If you see any mold or rust on any of the other parts (like the hook, latch or flag), you should also sand it off.

Some Final Preparations

After you have sanded down your surfaces, use a tack cloth to wipe away any dust, debris, or residue. This stops the dust from getting caught in the paint, which can create a grainy, uneven finish coat. If there are any parts attached to the mailbox that you cannot remove and have not yet been covered, cover them with painter's tape. For some of the bigger parts, like a flag, you might want to wrap them in a plastic bag, and then secure this bag with painter's tape. Now's the time to choose the right day to prime and paint your mailbox. You will want to choose a day that is not too humid or windy, as this could interfere with your paint finish. You also want a warm day, as the warmer the day, the faster your paint will dry. However, you don't want it to be too hot, as the paint could dry too quickly, leaving you with a bad finish. You should also find a spacious, well-ventilated area to paint and prime your mailbox, preferably outside.

Prime your Mailbox

Once you have chosen the time and place, it's time to apply primer to your mailbox. Choose a spray paint primer in a neutral color. Holding the can about 7 inches away from the mailbox, spray the primer onto the mailbox in a side-to-side motion. Try to use even



strokes, overlapping slightly to ensure you cover the whole mailbox in an even coat. Wait for your first coat of primer to dry, and then apply a second coat for good measure.

Painting the Mailbox

Once the primer is dry, it is time to start spray painting. The best paint for a metal mailbox will usually be spray paint as it's quick and easy to apply evenly. There are various spray paints available specifically for metal, and it's advised that you choose one of these. You might want your mailbox white, or painted black, or have your heart set on a funky yellow. Now's the time to get creative and choose the best color for you and your house. You'll want to apply at least two coats, to get a smooth, even finish on your painted mailbox.

Put your Mailbox Back Together

After you have primed and painted your mailbox, leave it to dry. Remember, spray paint can feel dry to the touch but still not be fully cured. Look at the spray paint container to see how long it takes for the paint to cure. If no time is indicated, it's recommended to leave it overnight to dry. Now is also the time to get creative if you want to add anything else to your mailbox. There are so many unique mailbox ideas that you can use to spruce your mailbox up.

The Final Step

The final step is to attach any loose parts back onto the mailbox, and then reattach the mailbox to its post or wall.



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During the home selling process, repairs can be a necessary part of the transaction. Buyers have a home inspection and negotiate a list of repairs that the seller is required to complete before settlement. An issue that can arise is a need for city permits and the time involved to pull the permit and have the city complete the final inspection.

The Real Estate Information Network (REIN) provides a Consumer Disclosure Information Form for buyers and sellers which states:

“**BUILDING PERMITS:** Certain improvements or repairs to buildings on properties require permits from the jurisdiction in which the property is located. Permits are required for some additions, modifications and remodeling including building construction, electrical, plumbing, mechanical installations and maintenance. The purpose of a permit is to ensure compliance with the State Building Code. Virginia cities, towns and counties enforce the Uniform Statewide Building Code. A buyer should undertake such due diligence as buyer deems appropriate to ensure the permits have been secured and inspections performed”.

Here are a few examples of repairs that require an application for a permit as well as a final inspection from the City of Virginia Beach:

- Removal/abatement of underground oil tanks
- Roofs on attached properties (townhouses)
- Ductwork replacement
- Structural repairs which include crawl space work
- Gas HVAC replacement/ Gas Hot Water heaters-any gas equipment
- Electrical Panel Replacement
- New decks and fences
- Additions
- Crawl Space Encapsulations

Please contact the City of Virginia Beach permit department to verify if any improvements or repairs will require a city permit.

Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)

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

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The *Lake Smith Ripples* is published nine months of the year, September through May, and is delivered to over 900 homes in our community.

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March 12th*



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Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28th
Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence @ Ewell Road

Garden Terms, A New Feature Starting This Month.

First one outta' the chute is Botanical name. It is the name assigned to a plant using the Latin-based terminology developed by the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus in the 1700s. Using a plant's botanical name (also referred to as its scientific name) eliminates the risk of confusing it with other plants. This is in contrast to the common name or nickname used in certain circles or geographic regions to describe a plant – and one plant can have several common names. An appropriate example is *Digitaria sanguinalis*. Yes, avid gardeners, that pesky plant (pictured) in your flower bed and lawn has a Latin name and many common names, or, rather, perhaps many colorful adjectives. Yes, it is the ubiquitous crab grass, a local favorite. Stay tuned for more garden terms in next month's Ripples.

Despite the daunting challenges of *Digitaria sanguinalis*, the grass can be greener on your side of the fence. Taming weeds, covering bare patches and grooming a gorgeous lawn isn't all that difficult. A valuable hint for lawn care is to remember it is a growing expanse of many individual grass plants. So, adjust your focus to the plant level and encourage the grass plants to take care of the lawn. Learn what your grass plants need to flourish and tackle the right tasks at the right time.

Its Spring time ... time to give the lawn a quick cleaning before kicking off the growing and mowing season. Grab a lawn rake to remove sticks, pine cones and other detritus. Your newly sharpened lawn mower blade will appreciate this pruning. And, while you're at it, don't forget to raise your mower deck to the highest level recommended for your type of grass. This encourages your grass to grow thicker with deeper roots ... get double duty here, thick grass discourages weeds.

Your expanse of grass woke up from dormancy with an appetite for nourishment. Time to fertilize happy homeowners! You can use a spring time fertilizer either with or in conjunction with a weed

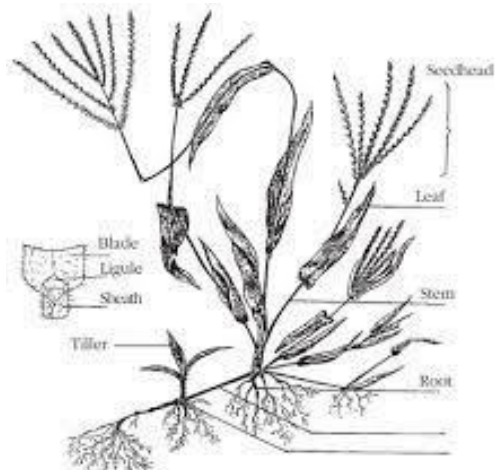
killer (read the directions first!). Not only will this feed and strengthen your sea of grass, it will also kill weeds like clover and dandelion preventing the sprouting of future seeds from these plants. Don't sprinkle any pre-emergent herbicide on the bare patches; this will prevent

New Members are Always Welcome!

grass seeds from germinating when you patch these spots. Feed your grass two months later to maintain strong grass plants able to withstand summer heat and weather stress. Remember, crab grass is an annual and its seeds are ready to sprout in the Spring.

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 fussie-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 28th, social 6:30, Meeting 7:00. Visit us during one of our monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Bayside Presbyterian Church, on Ewell Road. Contact: Sylvia Williams, Membership Chair @ (717) 332-0688 or Keren Pernini, President @ (757) 589-8463 for more information or just come to a meeting.



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