

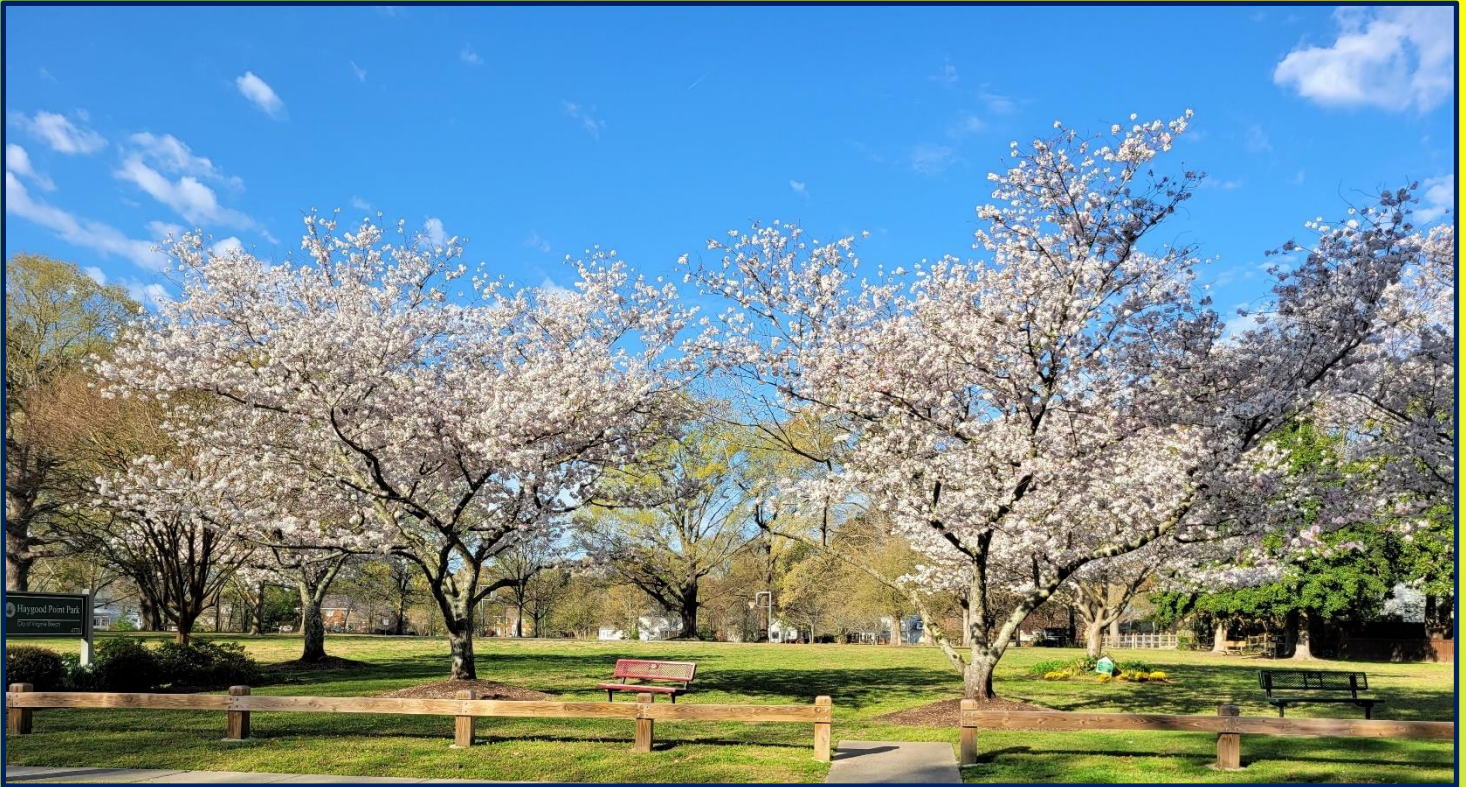
Lake Smith Ripples



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

April 2023

Volume 26, Issue 8



Spring Has Sprung!

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, 18 April

Bayside Presbyterian Church

Social Period - 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order - 7:00 p.m.

Presentation

Virginia's Trees and Forests

by

Kendall Topping

Virginia Department of Forestry

**Lake Smith Terrace / Haygood Point /
Governor Square Civic League, Inc.**

P.O. Box 68883
Virginia Beach, VA 23471
www.LHGCL.org

Meetings held 3rd Tuesday, September through May,
at Bayside Presbyterian Church

Officers, Directors, & Representatives

President: John Eason, 757 473-3458
jeason913@verizon.net

1st Vice President: Sam Hribal, 757 232-3018
samhri@verizon.net

2nd Vice President: Rick DeJaegher, 757 575-1407
rhdejaegher@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Secretary: Theresa Gray, 757 499-2941
Theresa.Gray@truist.com

Hospitality: Edi Eason, 757 473-3458
edieason@verizon.net

Membership: Jean Bowman, 757 286-7455
jean@bowmanrealtyva.com

NWBP/VBCCO REP: Megan Earlenbaugh
earlenbaughm@gmail.com

Programs: Jack Molovinsky 757-460-5853
pairofjacks507@cox.com

Community Maintenance: Pete Cook, 954-270-8315
peter.cook@computersandnet
working.com

Newsletter: Rick DeJaegher, 757 575-1407
Editor rhdejaegher@gmail.com

Advertising

Fundraising: Steven Conner, 757 589-9895
steven@bowmanrealtyva.com

Web Master: Don Krudop
dkrudop@mac.com

Youth Rep: Kiley Wilson
kbear2006@icloud

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

Ripples-Newsletter@googlegroups.com

President's Corner

Spring is in full bloom here in our corner of Virginia Beach. Have you seen the cherry blossoms in the park? In our neighborhood's yards, grass is starting to grow, bulbs are blooming, and trees (with their pollen) are coming back to life. All this signals the need for yard work. I occasionally get contacted by residents seeking someone to do yard cleanup and trimming. If you are someone who enjoys that kind of work, and would like to make some extra money, please contact me and I will add you to a list of available workers for referrals.

The civic league's email broadcast list has grown to nearly 500 addresses. Sending broadcast messages to such a large group was proving difficult with existing non-commercial platforms. So, to better manage these broadcast messages, we have added new email addresses on our own website for the civic league president and vice-president to utilize when sending broadcast messages to the members. In order to keep broadcast messages from going into your spam folder, please add President@LHGCL.org and VicePresident@LHGCL.org to your email address listings.

We attended an organizational meeting of the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) on March 23, 2023. The purpose was to elect the 13 officers and directors of the organization who will serve until December 31, 2023. Congratulations to our own Al Wallace for his election to a director position on the board. The newly elected board members will work to reinvigorate, revitalize, and redefine the VBCCO's mission and vision going forward. The new VBCCO president, Rick Boyles, did an outstanding job in guiding the interim steering committee that has brought us to this stage. Rick is president of the Thalia civic league. Our civic league has been a strong proponent of the VBCCO for many years. We welcome the organization's rebirth and look forward to its role of enabling, coaching, educating, and defending the city's 140+ civic organizations and their residents. Our permanent representative to the VBCCO is Megan Earlenbaugh. You can learn more about the VBCCO at www.vbcco.org.

On March 9, 2023, I was invited to participate in a Microsoft Teams video conference with our 9th district councilman, Thoroughgood civic league president, and the Virginia Beach traffic engineer to review a presentation about the intersection of Paul Revere / Wakefield and Independence Blvd. The engineer made a compelling case for installing a traffic signal at that intersection – something we have opposed since it was first discussed three years ago. His case is based solely on traffic counts and accident data that originates from the Wakefield side. There were 20 reported accidents at that intersection in the five year period of 2016-20. All appear to have been the result of vehicles exiting Wakefield to complete a left turn onto southbound Independence. These could have been avoided had the drivers exited Thoroughgood Colony via Dunstan to the traffic signal at Ewell Rd. As stated, this civic league opposed a traffic light at the Paul Revere intersection, and our position was supported by the late councilman Louis Jones, and former councilman John Moss. This matter was brought up for discussion at our March 21, 2023, civic league meeting. There were no calls to change our current position. We will review the issue at our next civic league board meeting.

We had a good civic league meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The speaker was Captain Doug Guevara – VBPD Commanding Officer at our third precinct. I am hoping to see a good turnout at our next meeting on April 18, 2023. If you have never been to a civic league meeting, this would be a good time to come join your friends and neighbors for a worthwhile hour. See you there!

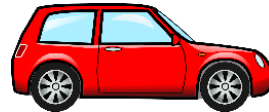
John Eason

Well, it looks like we survived another Virginia Beach winter. As the warmer weather arrives, we will see more activity in our community. There will be an increase in the number of walkers, joggers, bikers and others with not so friendly ideas. Would be criminals are hesitant to do their dirty work in neighborhoods where yards are neat, and people are out during the day when they ride around looking for suitable targets.

Don't open your door to people that arrive without calling first. Everyone has a cell phone, and it is common courtesy to let people know that you will be visiting. You are under no obligation to answer your door. Reputable businesses will call in advance.

Virginia Beach Police Department Door to Door Solicitation Sergeant Brad Wessler from Virginia Beach Police Department Woodard Crescent - SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE – AND THE SALESPEOPLE ARE OUT! It's that time of year again, when we start receiving an influx of calls and complaints about door-to-door salespeople saturating our neighborhoods – especially alarm company representatives. During the summer months in particular, our region experiences a significant increase of salespeople from out of state alarm and security companies. We then receive numerous complaints of fraudulent transactions, overly aggressive sales tactics, and in some cases, outright belligerent behavior by some of these solicitors. The City of Virginia Beach, like most cities in Hampton Roads, has a law to help protect homeowners when solicitors come to the door. Solicitors must obtain and carry with them a police department-issued non-laminated plastic card displaying their photo and the name of the company they represent. Please do not invite anyone into your home until you are convinced they have properly identified themselves. If the sales offer sounds too good to be true, trust your instincts; they are probably right. If you post a "no soliciting" sign, be sure to also include "violators will be charged with trespassing." If an individual continues to solicit after seeing such a sign, he or she can be charged with trespassing (the homeowner/resident would need to prosecute and appear in court). When considering alarm systems, consult with several reputable home security system providers and make sure they are Department of Criminal Justice Services licensed in Virginia at <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/ps/director...> You may also want to check the Better Business Bureau for any complaints about alarm providers. Some solicitors, such as charitable, non-profit organizations and civic or religious organizations are exempt, and do not require a solicitor's permit. However, those individuals are required to register with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (VDACA). Such

organizations can be verified online at www.vdacs.virginia.gov or by phone during business hours with the VDACA (804) 786-2042. Report all suspicious individuals and activity to the Police non-emergency number (385-5000). For actual crimes in progress, call 911. Never allow solicitors into your home and verify their identity before even opening your door. Trust your instincts. If you feel uneasy, ask them to leave your property. Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 385-1006 for further information.



CAR TIPS

The Importance of Filtering Technology

Filters play a large role in your vehicle's health, so it is very important to ensure the following filters are changed at manufacturers' recommended intervals.

- Engine Air Filters: Engine air filters prevent dirt, debris, bugs, leaves, and more from entering your engine. A clogged or dirty filter can make your engine lose air flow, which can cause a loss of power– making your engine strain.
- Cabin Air Filters: Cabin air filters, also known as pollen filters, filter all of the air that is coming into the cabin of the vehicle. They act as a second pair of lungs for you and your passengers by blocking contaminants from coming inside with the air you breathe.
- Fuel Filters: Fuel filters protect all of the fuel components, such as fuel pumps and injectors, from microcontaminants that are found in gasoline. These filters even affect your fuel economy.
- Engine Oil Filters: Oil filters are extremely important in removing contaminants from your vehicle's engine oil. Oil should always be changed at factory intervals, but between these intervals it's the oil filter that prevents the buildup of contaminants that could accumulate over time and damage your engine.

Happy motoring,
Maranda Forbes
Protime Automotive

We need members!!! If you have not done so, please fill out the membership form and mail in your \$15 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League to help us reach our 450 membership goal. Your support is greatly appreciated! A special “thank you” to all who have joined and supported our civic league. We could not fund our community activities without your help!!

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 following is a list of new and renewing civic league memberships received between February 25th and March 24th. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Memberships are for 2023 unless otherwise noted.

- Ross, Claudia Baker & Family
- Mike & Lisa Booth (2024)
- Chuck & Sue Bowlyou (2024)
- Fran Crank
- Eddie & Nicole Duckworth
- Zack & Peggy Gentry
- Charlene Hetfield
- Mike Ingle
- Ada Jaquith (2027)
- Steve & Haley Jean Kidwell
- Ken & Patricia Knight
- Don & Susan Krudop
- Daniel & Yvonne Lyall (2025)
- James & Mary O’Neill
- Greg & Glenda Prentis
- Mrs. Joseph Schneider
- Ernestine Schrank
- William Strokes
- Elizabeth Wawrzkiwicz
- Ray & Barbara Wiggins (2025)

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BUYING ■ SELLING ■ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Hitch Rust Maintenance and Prevention



Trailer Hitch Rust Prevention

Receiver Hitch Rust Prevention:

Use a non-solvent based product like Fluid Film to add additional protection to the receiver hitch and receiver opening from rust causing agents like moisture and debris. Use a hitch cover to prevent water and dirt from getting into the receiver opening.

Ball Mount Rust Prevention

Remove the ball mount when not in use. Store ball mount indoors and away from corrosive weather

A ball mount connects the trailer ball to the receiver hitch. If left inside the receiver, ball mount vibration can begin to erode the protective coating and allow for rust inside the receiver tube. Preventing this type of rust is as simple as removing the ball mount when it is not being used and storing it inside your home or vehicle. If you are storing it in your vehicle, we suggest using an accessory bag to protect the vehicle and the ball mount.

Hitch Ball Rust Prevention

Use ball grease to protect and assist the hitch ball during use.

Use a ball mount bag or ball cover to protect the hitch ball when not in use. The hitch ball sits in the ball mount and will see the harshest effects of any weather or friction-related use. To protect the hitch ball while in use we recommend applying ball grease to make sure it pivots smoothly while inside the coupler. Removing the ball mount and storing it inside a bag when it is not in use is the most recommended method for preventing rust to both the ball mount and hitch ball. If you're going to leave the mount attached to your hitch, be sure to continually reapply ball grease and use a ball cover to protect it when not in use.

Trailer Hitch Maintenance

Despite your best efforts to prevent rust, it may still find its way onto your hitch. All is not lost however, and with these tips you can fight the rust and prevent it from happening again in the near future. Clean out existing rust and apply rust-resistant paint to the newly exposed metal.

Receiver Hitch Rust Maintenance

Look for corrosion or wear around the hitch pin hole and receiver opening.

Cover exposed metal with a rust stopping paint. Use a hitch cover to prevent dirt and water from getting inside your hitch.

Look for corrosion around the hitch pin holes and the interior of the receiver opening. If you notice spots that have worn out the powdered coating, you will want to touch those up with a rust stopping paint to reseal the metal underneath. If it has started to rust already you want to remove that rust with a homemade or store-bought rust remover and then apply the paint over it. Do not paint over rust as the corrosion will continue underneath.

Ball Mount Rust Maintenance

Clean out existing rust and apply rust-resistant paint to the newly exposed metal.

Similar to the receiver, the ball mount will be powder coated as well to prevent rust. After a while it may begin to show signs of wear and tear, causing the metal underneath the paint to become exposed to dirt and water which will cause rust. If you find dents or spots that are starting to rust, clean them thoroughly with a homemade or store bought rust remover and then apply rust-resistant paint to the area. Do not paint over rust as that will not prevent the corrosion from continuing underneath.

Hitch Ball Rust Maintenance

The hitch ball is the portion of the hitch system that is most likely to see a lot of wear and tear from the elements and general use. If using ball grease and a ball cover has failed to protect the ball and you find rust has taken hold of it, you can attempt to clean it using a homemade solution of distilled vinegar or store-bought products. Once the rust has been removed, continue to liberally re-apply ball grease during use and use a ball cover or hitch bag to protect it when it's not being used.

Ref: <https://www.uhaul.com/Tips/Trailer-Hitches/Hitch-Rust-Maintenance-And-Prevention-16564/>



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As the first quarter of the year is nearing, and in summary, the real estate market has been strong, especially for sellers. A continuing low inventory of homes has created a huge demand. Home prices are at an all-time high. With the rising mortgage interest rates, combined with inflation and world events...it will be interesting to watch the real estate market in the near future.

There has been a "cooling" of the market in other parts of the country, however, homes for sale in our neighborhood are going under contract quickly, most often with multiple offers.

Since January, 1085 homes have "sold" in the City of Virginia Beach. This is less than the number sold at the same time last year, which is consistent with the reduced number of homes listed for sale.

The list below shows the variation in the price point sold:

Price	Number Sold
0-\$100,000	3
\$101,000-\$200,000	73
\$201,000-\$300,000	312
\$301,000-\$400,000	342
\$401,000-\$500,000	154
\$501,000-\$600,000	59
\$601,000-\$700,000	31
\$701,000-\$800,000	27
\$801,000-\$900,000	19
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	21
\$1,000,000+	43



Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)

Jean Bowman, Bowman Realty, Licensed in Virginia

**Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since February 2023**



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

FOR SALE

- 4653 John Alden Rd
- 4653 Bromfield Ave
- 948 W Ferry Plantation Rd
- 917 Five Forks Rd

PENDING

- 1100 Five forks Rd

SOLD

- 4677 Miles Standish Rd

HAYGOOD POINT

PENDING

- 4605 Chippendale Ct
- 4701 Pickle Barn Ct
- 4709 Pickle Barn Ct

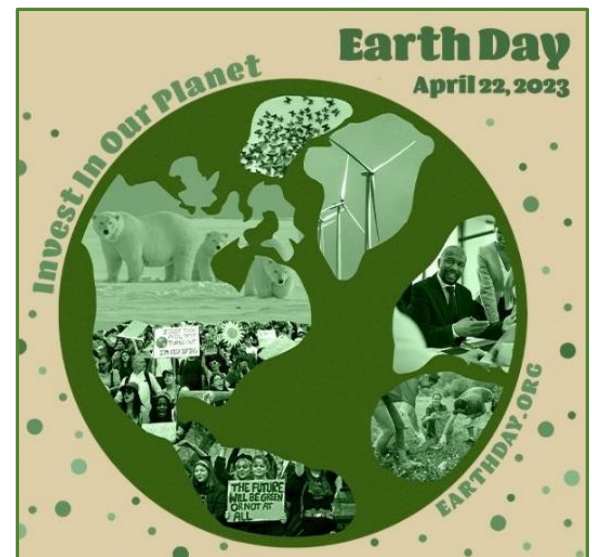
SOLD

- 825 Moultrie Ct

GOVERNOR SQUARE

FOR SALE

- 917 Fwell Rd





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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

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TAX DAY

**DEADLINE
* EXTENDED ***

The federal deadline for filing individual tax returns for this year has been extended to **Tuesday, 18 April 2023.**

When the Emancipation Day Holiday, which is 16 April and observed in Washington D.C., falls on a Sunday the day after is the observed holiday. Since the normal due date of 15 April falls on the same weekend, the decision was made to extend the individual tax return due date to Tuesday 18 April for this year. The following forms are extended:
Form 1040, Form 1041 and form 1120

Get a Rain Barrel and Save on Irrigation

A rain barrel captures and stores rainwater that can be used to water your yard, garden, or flower beds. Using a rain barrel saves you money on your water bill and helps improve the health of our waterways by reducing stormwater runoff.



Join the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners in constructing a rain barrel! Workshops are held March- September at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market. Each barrel is \$65.00 and includes a free diverter kit for installation on an existing down spout. Registration is required. Rain barrel workshop dates are May 13, June 10 (2 classes), July 8, August 16, September 9 and October 7.

Register to reserve your spot at:
www.vbmg.org/rain-barrels.html

source: VB Public Utilities *Pipeline* March 2023

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Walkers in the Street



The good news is – We have a lot of people walking in our neighborhood which is great for health and relaxation. **The problem is** that groups of walkers are walking abreast in the middle of the street and are not paying attention or are slow to yield to approaching vehicle traffic. It's understandable that walking abreast facilitates conversation and makes the walk more sociable, but please be alert and courteous to drivers by temporarily moving close to the curb and allowing vehicles to pass as they approach. Sadly the health benefits of walking are quickly erased in pedestrian/vehicle collisions – the vehicle always wins.



Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club

Green Thumb and Experience not Required!

So, visit us during one of our monthly meetings starting at 6:30 on the 4th Tuesday of the month, April 25th at Bayside Presbyterian Church on Ewell Rd.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

at HAYGOOD METHODIST CHURCH Parking Lot

LOTS OF ANNUAL FLOWERS, HERBS, TROPICAL PLANTS

and DONATIONS FROM OUR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS' GARDENS.

With Spring finally here, we are excited about all our gardens and the emerging buds. Our club maintains bed areas at the entryways to our neighborhood and we support several related organizations. All of this is made possible by our neighbors, who are also our supporters, at the club's two plant sales. The upcoming spring sale is highlighted above ... if you're not spending April in Paris, this is a **NOT TO MISS EVENT!** We are featuring herbs, annual flowering plants, tropical beauties, hanging baskets and succulents. In addition, our gardeners have been busy nurturing plants to contribute to the sale. These "homemade" specimens are very special deals indeed.

Plant sale proceeds cover maintenance of the entryway gardens to the neighborhood and the park garden and, as well, help support Lynnhaven River Now, Virginia Beach Council of Garden Clubs, Tidewater District Flower Show, Friends of First Landing and Brock Environmental Center

Our guest at the April meeting is Malia Huddle from the Virginia Camellia Society. You may have already appreciated the efforts of the Camellia

Society at the Hofheimer Camellia Garden, pictured, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, located near the Renaissance Court. It features one of the region's largest collections of camellias, totaling over 450 varieties. Camellias thrive in our local climate (and acidic soil) ... so, come to our meeting and gain a finer appreciation of this lovely shrub's *je ne sais quoi* making it very popular in Tidewater.



We've been besieged by our avid readers clamoring for the second in our series of garden terms. This month our new term is appropriate for spring, ***Harden Off***. The process of gradually acclimating a plant to a different, usually harsher, climate, such as outdoors from indoors in order to increase its resiliency.

This is Your Neighborhood Garden Club - Why You Might be Interested.

This is our 57TH year!! We continue to offer education in Environmental Information for gardeners of all varieties – there is always something to learn. The club was established in 1966 and is still going strong. Contact: Lynda Kirby, Membership Chair @ (757) 363-8236 or Keren Pernini, President @ (757) 589-8463 for more information or just come to a meeting.

New Members are Always Welcome!

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If your home is listed with another real estate firm, this is not intended to be a solicitation.