



Lake Smith Ripples



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

October 2023

Volume 27, Issue 2

Annual Fall Festival

**Sunday, 22 October
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

Haygood Point Park

-  Family Potluck Picnic (*Please bring a side dish for 4 or more to share*)
-  Hot dogs, hamburgers, and brats provided by Civic League
-  Petting Zoo
-  Hayride
-  Bounce House
-  Balloon Lady
-  Free pumpkin (1 per member household)
-  Fire truck and police car
-  Chat with your neighbors and meet new friends – *Fun for all!*



Costumes Welcome
(Dogs are not)

Free to all civic league member households
Not a member, not a problem.
Join at the gate - \$15.00 per household

Visitors over age 12 - \$5.00 per person and must be accompanied by a paid civic league household member.

We need volunteers to assist with this event. Please call Edi at 473-3458 if you can help.

Community Yard Sale

**Saturday, 14 October
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The Civic League will run an ad in the newspaper and place signs at the neighborhood entrances.



Place balloons on your mailbox to help shoppers find your house.



Civic League Meeting and Program

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Bayside Presbyterian Church
1400 Ewell Rd**

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

Presentation

An Interactive Training Session

by

Virginia Beach Fire Department

President's Corner

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

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

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

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The "Lake Smith Ripples" is published nine months of the year, September through May, by the Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point, Governor Square Civic League. Neither its Officers, Directors or members are responsible for the content of our advertiser's advertising or our contributors, nor do they endorse or recommend any product or service offered by them. The right to reject any ad or article deemed to be inappropriate is the absolute and sole discretion of the LST / HP / GS Civic League Officers, Directors or members is retained.

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

We have finally emerged from the hazy, hot, and humid summer and into a more comfortable Autumn. Already, we are starting to see Halloween and other fall decorations in yards around the community. It's always more enjoyable doing yard work this time of year.

I hope everyone is getting ready for our annual community yard sale coming up on Saturday, October 14th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The civic league will place an ad in the Virginian-Pilot and will place signs at all six neighborhood entrances. There should be lots of bargain hunters in the neighborhood on Saturday morning. We are placing a list of participating households on the civic league website – www.lhgcl.org. To have your address added to the yard sale participant list, please send me an email at jason913@verizon.net, or call / text me at 757-642-4844.

You don't want to miss our civic league meeting on Tuesday, October 17th. Our meeting program will be an interactive training session presented by representatives from the Virginia Beach Fire Department. Come early and enjoy some refreshments while spending time with friends and neighbors. Looking ahead, the November 21st civic league meeting will include a presentation by Congresswoman Jen Kiggans.

I believe we are all aware of the impact of inflation on the family budget. It's a silent tax that chips away on our buying power. We feel it every time we go to the grocery store, a clothing store, building supply store, a restaurant, or the gas station. And we really feel it when seeking to buy a home with a new mortgage. Inflation is something we just can't avoid. The same problem is felt by your civic league. Our board of directors always strives to be frugal with all civic league related expenses. Inflation has increased our costs significantly. We have incurred increases in such areas as producing the newsletter and conducting our major events. Even the cost of our post-office box has nearly doubled in the past few years. Last month the board voted to increase our civic league annual dues to \$20 per household effective January 1, 2024. This is the first increase in several years but one that is needed. If you have not yet paid civic league dues for this year (2023), please do so as they are still \$15. In fact, you can pay ahead as many years as you like for \$15 a year. We keep very good membership records. Some residents are paid ahead five or more years. After January 1, 2024, all civic league dues will be \$20 per year.

I hope to see all of you at our Fall Festival event on October 22nd. Our Fall Festival committee has been planning the event since early August. I know you and your family will have an enjoyable time at the park. This year we will even have a brass band from the United States Navy. As with all our civic league events, membership is required to participate. If you are not a member, you can join at the gate. It's still \$15 for your household.

John Eason

Now is the time to do some basic annual maintenance

As the fall and winter months approach, now is a good time to do some annual maintenance. Here is a list of “must do” items that every homeowner should check off before hunkering down for the winter.

- ✓ Check and Replace Worn Weather Stripping around doors and windows.
- ✓ Seal Gaps Where Critters and Cold Air can Come into Your Home.
- ✓ Inspect Exterior Walls - If you have a painted exterior, check for any cracks or blisters in the paint surface. This is a sign that a new coat of paint is needed. If left unchecked, that failing paint won't protect your home, opening you up to much costlier repairs in the future. If you have brick walls remove and replace cracked mortar or seal cracks to prevent water intrusion. Water entering the cracks can freeze and cause additional damage to the brick wall.
- ✓ Have Your Chimney Cleaned
- ✓ Stock Up on Firewood - Now is the time to purchase firewood and store it in an easily accessible location.
- ✓ Remove Window A/C Units - or purchase and install a protective insulated cover that not only shields the unit from harsh weather, but also helps to insulate your home. Make sure this cover fits snugly around the AC unit.
- ✓ Clean Out and Repair Rain Gutters
- ✓ Inspect and Repair the Roof if needed
- ✓ Clean, Store or cover Patio Furniture including cushions.
- ✓ Clean and Cover the Grill
- ✓ Clean, Stain, and/or Seal the Deck
- ✓ Inspect Your Driveway for Cracks – If you find any cracks, clean them out and repair any damage with driveway filler. For asphalt driveways - follow up with a coat of commercial sealer
- ✓ Protect Exposed Water Pipes - Be sure to wrap exposed piping with a weather-resistant, insulated material made to keep pipes from freezing.
- ✓ Change the Direction of Ceiling Fans - By doing this, you create an upward draft that redistributes warm air from the ceiling. Directing the warm air back down towards the main portion of living space.
- ✓ Test and Change the Batteries in Your Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors -units stop working after 7-10 years.
- ✓ Remove Screens and Install Glass in Storm Doors. Before storing the screens, be sure to clean them and repair any damage. Stow the screens in a dry area of the garage or basement.
- ✓ As Fall wanes and Winter approaches, winterize your lawnmower:
 - Empty the gas tank or add fuel stabilizer to prevent the gas from getting stale and gumming up the carburetor.
 - If you have a battery start mower, remove the battery pack and store it indoors somewhere dry and warm.
 - Change the engine oil and remove any moisture from the mower components.
 - Change or clean the air filter.
 - Clean the undercarriage and the deck to remove any debris, clippings, or dirt.
 - Store your lawn mower in a shed or garage over winter.

This checklist should get you on your way to preparing your home for the winter. Now is the time to get started on each item, before the cold winds blow and the snow starts falling!





Greetings Neighbors!

Our Membership drive is underway, and we need your help! Our goal is to reach 400 members by the end of the year! You can help your civic league reach its membership goal by joining today. Please show your support by mailing in the completed form along with your \$15.00 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. You may also sign up at the Fall Festival being held at Haygood Point Park on Sunday, 22 October. Membership dues allow us to fund neighborhood events and provide our newsletter to each household. We really need your support!! If you are a member ask a non-member neighbor to join.



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 August 25th And September 26th Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Memberships are for 2023 unless otherwise noted.

- Steven Conner & Brad Rudacille
- Jonathan DeGarmo
- Ginger & Jim Dietz
- Betty Given (2024)
- James & Sheila Grix (2024)
- Donnie & Glanda Holcomb (2026)
- Ada Jaquith (2029)

- Jim & Leslie Lampella (2025)
- Marshall & Stephanie Long (2024)
- Sam, Nelson, Alan & Chris Lovitt
- Paul Meise (2024)
- Brian & Elizabeth Perkins (2024)
- Jim & Beth Toone (2025)
- Allen & Debra Waters (2024)

Neighborhood Watch is simply a program of neighbors watching out for each other during the workdays, evenings, vacations or any other absences to prevent or reduce crime. The purpose of the Neighborhood Watch program is to create an alert neighborhood. The program works through the mutual support of neighbors watching the property of other neighbors.

When you go away on vacation, do you worry about your home? Well, when your neighbors go away, they also worry about their homes. Ease your worries. Watch out for each other. Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are gone. This is what good neighbors do. Usually once you ask neighbors to watch your home, you will be asked to reciprocate when they go away. It's a win-win situation. It is also a good idea to provide the neighbor watching your home a travel schedule and a contact telephone number for you and/or a nearby relative.

Make sure your home is secure when you are traveling—all deadbolts locked, lights left on timers, newspapers stopped, trash/recycle receptacles put back, and mail held at the post office or collected by a trusted neighbor.

For the Neighborhood Watch program to be totally effective, each resident must take an active role. It has been shown that the incidence of crimes has been significantly reduced in neighborhoods where residents have joined together to look out for each other. Thieves and vandals will go elsewhere when a Neighborhood Watch Community is always on its toes.

Another benefit of Neighborhood Watch is that you can tell who would be vulnerable when there are extended power outages or if sever weather hits. Check on those that you think might need some kind of assistance. It is what a good community does.



Neighbors Protecting Neighbors

Report Suspicious Activity to

757-385-5000

Help Keep Our Neighborhood Safe

LST Block Party

**Oct 14th
6-8 PM**

**4688 Miles Standish Rd
Virginia Beach**



FOOD TRUCK & Live Music

Please bring a can of food to support local pantry



SCAN HERE for details!



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Claire Baker selected as Civic League Scholarship Recipient

The civic league would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 50/50 raffle at the general meetings and events. Without these contributions we would not have been able to fund this award. Since May 2012, we have awarded a five-hundred-dollar scholarship each year to a deserving high school graduate. This year, with the generosity of our neighborhood, we were able to award a \$700 scholarship to Claire Baker of Bayside High School. Claire has been a member of the Health Occupations Student Association for 5 years, a member of the National Honor Society for 2 years, Medical Honor Society for 2 years and the SCA General Assembly for 5 years. She has been the National Honor Society Treasurer, Captain of the Varsity Field Hockey Team and Swim Team and is a Girl Scout Silver Award winner. She has a current GPA of 4.16 and is studying nursing at the University of Lynchburg. Indeed, a most deserving and exemplary recipient of this year's award. Congratulations Claire!!



Lynnhaven River NOW Plastic Bag Survey

Plastic shopping bags, carrier bags, or plastic grocery bags are a type of plastic bag used as shopping bags and made from various kinds of plastic. In use by consumers worldwide since the 1960s, these bags are sometimes called single use or one-time use bags, referring to carrying items from a store to a home. The same properties that have made plastic bags so commercially successful and ubiquitous - namely their low weight and resistance to degradation - have also contributed to their proliferation in the environment.

Because of their durability, plastic bags can take centuries to decompose – between 500 and 1000 years for a plastic shopping bag to break down. The lifespan of a bag is approximately 12 minutes of use. Single use plastics make up one-third of the litter we see in our environment, and they are a poor use of our resources.

On land, plastic bags are one of the most prevalent types of litter in inhabited areas. Large buildups of plastic bags can and have clogged drainage systems and contributed to flooding. They are the major source of long-term pollution in our oceans. When we have our Clean-the-Lake event, the trash pulled from the water and along the shoreline is primarily plastic shopping bags and plastic drink bottles. What is the solution to the pollution? Re-useable cloth bags? Paper bags? Here is a four-question survey from Lynnhaven River NOW on the subject. Please click this link and complete the survey. It takes less than a minute.



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In these ever-changing times, “Safety” concerns are becoming a factor in our everyday lives. Whether we are going shopping at the mall, dining out, or just relaxing in our own homes, we have been informed to be more aware of our surroundings and report any “suspicious” person(s) or activity.

In the real estate market, safety is also a concern, not only for the real estate professionals, but also for homeowners as they put their properties on the market.

Safety Tips:

- Secure Valuables in a safe place (cash, jewelry, medication, guns)
- Remove keys, credit cards, driver’s license or other forms of identification
- Lock down your computer and lock up other electronic equipment (laptop, iPod, etc)
- Do not leave personal information...mail and bills out in the open
- Do not show your home yourself...all inquiries need to go through your real estate agent

To help to protect yourself, discuss all of your safety concerns with your Real Estate Professional.

Source: Virginia Association of Realtors website: Realtor Safety Guide

www.REALTOR.org/Safety

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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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LAKE SMITH TERRACE GARDEN CLUB

Our Annual Pansy Sale will take place on 22 October. As always, a large array of pansies: the familiar Blotch or “face” pansies (some Colossus), Deltas with strong, vibrant solid colors (see to believe); yellow Jump Up and Citrus Violas; Snapdragons, Dusty Miller Silverdust and ornamental kale. Garden Club gals and guys will be there to assist you and answer any questions. We need your orders (and \$) no later than October 15th. Proceeds help our club maintain the gardens at our neighborhood entrances; the large garden and new “pollinator Station” (a must see) in our park; and support of local environmental organizations.

Early Voting is Underway

Early voting for Virginia’s House of Delegates and Senate began on September 22nd and will continue until November 4th. All 100 seats in the House and all 40 seats in the Senate are up for election this year. This year’s elections are the first under the new district boundaries.

The deadline to register to vote or update your existing registration is October 16th for those voting with a regular ballot. You can register online until 11:59 p.m. and in person until 5 p.m. However, you can still register after this date through Election Day and cast a provisional ballot, which is reviewed separately by the local elections board to determine its validity. To register online, go to www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/. To register in person, go to the Voter Registrations and Elections Office, Municipal Building 14 at 2449 Princess Anne Road.

The deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you is October 27th. The request must be received by 5 p.m.

Voter identification is required in Virginia, however if you show up without a valid ID you can still submit a signed statement affirming your identity. A basic list of acceptable forms of identification is as follows:

- Virginia driver’s license, current or expired
- Virginia DMV-issued ID, current or expired
- Valid employee ID with a photo of voter
- U.S. Military ID
- Valid student ID with a photo of voter issued by a public or private higher education institution in the U.S.
- Valid U.S. Passport
- Voter confirmation documents
- Valid tribal enrollment or other tribal ID issued by one of 11 tribes recognized by Virginia
- Nursing home resident ID
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck with name and address of voter

Early voting locations and Times

The Voter Registration & Elections Office, Municipal Center, Building 14. 2449 Princess Anne Rd. September 22nd through November 4th. Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Satellite locations:

Bayside Recreation Center – 4500 First Court Road, Virginia Beach
Oct 28 - Nov 4: 9a.m to 5 p.m. (Closed October 29)

Seatack Recreation Center Center -141 S. Birdneck Rd Virginia Beach
Oct 28 - Nov 4: 9a.m to 5 p.m. (Closed October 29)

Great Neck Recreation Center - 2521 Shorehaven Dr
Oct 28 - Nov 4: 9a.m to 5 p.m. (Closed October 29)

Kempsville Area Library - 832 Kempsville Rd
Oct 28 - Nov 4: 9a.m to 5 p.m. (Closed October 29)

Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library - 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Oct 28 - Nov 4: 9a.m to 5 p.m. (Closed October 29)



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