



Lake Smith Ripples



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

December 2023

Volume 27, Issue 4

Happy Holidays!



*Civic League
Christmas Potluck
Dinner*

Tuesday, 19 December



Bayside Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m. Social 6:30 p.m. Dinner

- Bring a covered dish for 8 – No desserts please
- Civic League to provide - Shrimp, ham, turkey, beef, rolls, desserts, beverages and tableware
- Visit from Santa (photo opportunity – bring your camera)

Door Prizes & 50/50 Raffle

*Free for all Civic League Members and their families.
Not a member – not a problem. Join at the door.*



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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jeason913@verizon.net

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

Neighbors, we are reaching the end of 2023. In a few short weeks we will ring in a new year, and then it all starts over again. In the meantime, we experience the joyous holiday season and the beginning of the winter season. Speaking of which, have you moved your snow shovel out of the shed and have it ready to use? If you are like me, you may find the thought of shoveling snow a little too exhausting. Every time we do have measurable snowfall, I get calls from residents looking for someone to shovel out their driveway and walkway. If you are someone, or know someone, willing to make a little money performing that task, please contact me (jeason913@verizon.net) so I can put you on the snow-shovelers list. It may or may not snow, but at least we will be prepared.

The November civic league meeting was well attended. More than 40 residents came out to meet our Congressional representative Jen Kiggans and our Virginia legislators, Senator Bill DeSteph and Delegate Robert Bloxom. Each gave us an update on their activities and objectives going forward. It was our first meeting with Delegate Robert Bloxom since the districts were redrawn, and we learned a great deal about his background and agenda. After the meeting adjourned, residents were able to spend individual time with our legislators. The hospitality committee furnished refreshments, including grilled hotdogs that were a big hit. And of course, I brewed a pot of my famous coffee. It was a good meeting and everyone in attendance seemed pleased.

Coming up on December 19th is our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner. This is one of the Civic League's special events that is typically well attended by our residents. In addition to a delicious meal, we are excited to have a visit from Santa Claus. It's an ideal photo opportunity for the parents. Be sure the children have their Christmas wish-lists to share with Santa. If you are new to the area and have not yet become a civic league member, you are invited to do so at the dinner for the low annual household dues of \$15 - and we will credit your membership through 2024. If you are an existing member, who has yet to pay dues for this year, you are welcome to do so at the dinner. It's going to be a fun evening that I hope you have on your calendar.

If you have not visited our civic league website lately, please check it out. Our webmaster, Don Krudop, does an excellent job keeping the site up to date and full of informative content. I am sure you have it bookmarked in your browser, but if not, the website is www.LHGCL.org.

As the weather gets cooler, please be sure to check on your elderly neighbors. They probably won't ask you for help, but I know they will appreciate the call.

I look forward to meeting everyone on the 19th at the Christmas Dinner event.

Edi and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year.

Stay safe and stay warm.

John Eason

The long-held notion that you should let your car idle in the cold is only true for carbureted engines.

In the thick of winter, the common wisdom is that when you're preparing to take your car or truck out in the cold and snow you should start your engine and let it idle to warm up before driving. But, contrary to popular belief this does not prolong the life of your engine, in fact it decreases it by stripping oil away from the engine's cylinders and pistons. In a nutshell, an internal combustion engine works by using pistons to compress a mixture of air and vaporized fuel within the cylinders. The compressed mixture is then ignited to create a combustion event – a little controlled explosion that powers the engine.

When your engine is cold the gasoline is less likely to evaporate and create the correct ratio of air and vaporized fuel for combustion. Engines with electronic fuel injection have sensors that compensate for the cold by pumping more gasoline into the mixture. The engine continues to run "rich" in this way until it heats up to about 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

That's a problem because you're actually putting extra fuel into the combustion chamber to make it burn and some of it can get onto the cylinder walls. Gasoline is an outstanding solvent and it can actually wash oil off the walls if you run it in those cold idle conditions for an extended period.

The life of components like piston rings and cylinder liners can be significantly reduced by gasoline washing away the lubricating oil, not to mention the extra fuel that is used while the engine runs rich. Driving your car is the fastest way to warm up your engine up to 40 degrees so it switches back to a normal fuel to air ratio. Even though warm air being generated by the radiator will flow into the cabin after a few minutes, idling does surprisingly little to warm the engine. The best thing to do is start the car, take a minute to knock off any ice on your windows, and get going.

Of course, hopping into your car and gunning it straightaway will put unnecessary strain on your engine. It takes 5-15 minutes for your engine to warm up, so take it nice and easy for the first part of your drive. Warming up your car before driving is a leftover practice from the days when carbureted engines dominated the roads. Carburetors mix gasoline and air to make a vaporized fuel to run an engine, but they don't have sensors that tweak the amount of gasoline when it's cold outside like modern fuel injectors. As a result, you have to let older cars warm up before driving or they will stall out. But It's been a long time since carbureted engines were common in vehicles. So unless you're rolling in a 1970's Chevelle-which is probably not your daily drive- bundle up, get into that cold car, and get moving.

Source: *Business Insider*

Found at: <http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/19086/warming-up-your-car-in-the-cold-just-harms-engine/>



Bayside Presbyterian Church Annual Living Nativity Scheduled for 9 and 10 December, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Located at Ewell and Independence This will be the churches 38th Annual Living Nativity presentation. An enjoyable event in which many of our neighbors have participated, will feature live animals, carolers and refreshments.

Free parking will be available in the church parking lot. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. **A canned food item for the church food pantry would be greatly appreciated.**

It is the Season to join the Civic League! Your annual fee of \$15 allows admission to our Christmas Dinner this month!!! The more who attend, the merrier it will be!! Please show your support by sending in the completed form along with your \$15 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. You may also join the evening of our Christmas Dinner!!

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 renewal civic league memberships received between October 26th and November 25th. Thank you for supporting the civic league that works for you every day. Memberships are for 2023 unless otherwise noted. Civic league dues received before 12/31/23 are \$15 annually per household. Beginning 1/1/24, civic league dues are \$20 annually. Please consider paying ahead in 2023 and beat the increase.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Martin & Rinda Albert (2025) | Kenneth & Patricia Knight (2024) | Barb Ryan & Jim Dunham (2024) |
| Andy Anderson (2028) | Gene & Carolyn Lempert | Kevin & Traci Sanders (2025) |
| Stan & Sue Ballard (2024) | Jay Lovejoy (2024) | Rick & Christi Stephens (2024) |
| Maxine Carey (2027) | Tracy Nash & Marco Sifuentes | Marge Stouffer (2024) |
| Dassa & Jerry Carvey (2033) | (2025) | The Stuart Family (2024) |
| Erin Connors & Steven Caldwell (2026) | Marie Parr (2024) | Tom & Michelle Tyree (2024) |
| Nida & Bob Christianson (2025) | Joe & Mabel Quartararo (2024) | |
| Kevin & Mary Hunter Cooper (2025) | | |

- Paul & Sue Cooper (2025)
 Roger & Trisha Cote (2024)
 Grant & Lynn Coull (2024)
 Richard & Mitra Dycus (2031)
 Spring & Scottie Dyer (2024)
 Paula & Ron Garrison (2029)
 Bill Haas (2024)
 Jennifer & Michael Hibar (2024)
 Drake Hoffman (2027)
 Judy Jackson (2024)



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I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. I certainly did. It's a great time of year to spend time with family and friends. It's hard to believe that Christmas will soon be upon us and that means more food and shopping.

Criminals love the holidays because it presents so many opportunities for them. Porch pirates follow delivery trucks and pluck the just delivered packages off of porches and hope it's something that they can use or sell, and it leaves your distant friend or relative wondering why you never thanked them for the gift they sent. Parking lot thieves watch for people returning to their vehicle to stash their just purchased packages so they can go back inside and buy more.

The VBPD will have extra officers patrolling the malls and shopping centers, but you need to not put yourself or your property into a situation that makes an easy or inviting target for would be thieves. Always be aware of your surroundings when approaching your vehicle. Try to park in a well-lighted area and place your packages out of sight --- in the trunk is the best place. If you are alone and uncomfortable walking to your car, ask a security guard to escort you.

Larceny from vehicles ranks highest in the number of crime reports taken by your VBPD. Always lock your vehicle. You don't want to come out of the mall and find that your vehicle was broken into or stolen. Never leave your keys in the ignition, cup holder, above the sun visor or in the glove box. It may be cold but even though you plan

to be gone for a couple minutes, never leave your car running unattended with the doors unlocked.

If you're having out of town guests staying with you for the holidays remind them to lock their vehicles. Recently in Virginia Beach during a 28-day period 213 Larcenies from Motor Vehicles were reported, 19 included firearms being taken. If you are a gun owner do not let a petty thief become a gun carrying thief.

Even when the best prevention methods are practiced, we can still be victims. No matter how insignificant the item stolen please report it to the VBPD.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Thanks to all the neighbors who came to enjoy the event

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There is a distinct rhythm to the school life of a high school student as the academic year progresses.

For those unfamiliar with this pattern, there's a period of time each year when their academic plates get extraordinarily filled, bringing a perfect storm of busyness and anticipation – the enigmatic November. This time of the year has its own sense of chaos and stress, but also festive anticipation.

It's a veritable madhouse. And yet, beneath the chaotic crescendo, there's a pulse of electrifying excitement. You see, closing grades not only indicate the end of the term but also mark the arrival of a long-anticipated break. On one hand, there's the growing pressure to meet and even surpass personal academic standards. On the other, there's the appealing allure of Christmas break drawing nearer. For students who see the gleaming holiday decorations gradually spreading throughout the town, it is not merely an end but also the beginning of a season filled with joy and festivity.

This tug of war between academic stress and holiday anticipation does not, however, drain high school students. On the contrary, it fosters a blend of exhaustion and excitement, which creates a uniquely poignant November experience. As high school students, this may well be their first real glimpse into balancing high-pressure scenarios and excitement. They start realizing the art of balancing academic pressures with anticipation for personal joys – a skill that will serve them well later in life.

Students start identifying when it's necessary to hunker down, stick to strict schedules, prioritize tasks, and then reward themselves with tiny indulgences. The thought of a winter break fuels them, motivating them to manage their time wisely, navigate challenges and overcome them with grace and grit. Amid all these responsibilities, they create time for themselves to also indulge in the upcoming season's festivities and derive happiness from them.

As grades are entered and classrooms empty, their efforts culminate in sighs of relief mixed with cheery laughter, exclaiming their vacation dreams or their anticipated reunion with family. There's an undeniable feeling of achievement and a gratifying sense of a well-deserved break that finally becomes a reality.

It's not an exaggeration to say that November presents itself as a colorful yet challenging collage of moments to high school students, throwing a multi-

faceted concoction of closing grades, increased responsibilities, and also, the lure of an upcoming, well-deserved break. This distinctive rhythm gives them a lesson outside of their textbooks - a lesson in managing life, balancing hard work with happiness and most importantly, getting a sense of how real-life juggling could potentially be later in their lives. This intricate mesh is the essence of a high school student's life in November, an intense blend of excitement and fatigue, academic pressures, and holiday dreams, thus rendering an experience as unforgettable as it is enriching.



CAR TIPS

The Dreaded State Inspections

As a father and a husband, I certainly want all the vehicles on the road to be safe, not only for drivers, but occupants and pedestrians as well. Have you ever thought about someone having bald tires or bad brakes driving near your loved one on a wet road? In Virginia, state inspections are mandated for your safety and the safety of others while driving on our roads.

Virginia's Inspection rules are rather strict on a national scale as there is a manual that consists of 193 pages of criteria the state uses to determine if vehicles pass or fail. Certified state inspection stations and their technicians are held accountable by the state to perform the inspections according to the law. Technicians are required to pass a stringent written and hands-on test administered by the state and are required to recertify every three years.

While no one looks forward to having an annual Virginia State Inspection performed on their vehicle, please keep in mind some of the positive aspects of this program. Not only are our roads, vehicles, and loved ones safer but we are rewarded with lower auto insurance costs than states that do not require inspections.

Happy Motoring,
Howard Forbes
Protime Automotive

Historically, the real estate market tends to slow in the month of December. That has not happened this year! The real estate market remains steady with activity as buyers are out searching for a new home. Concerns about economy, inflation and the rise in interest rates have put some buyers on the sidelines, but it has not affected all of them. We are continuing to see some multiple offer situations...but not as many offers as we saw in the Spring. Buyers may experience less competition when trying to purchase a home.

That being said, December may be an opportune time to place your home on the market. Citywide inventory tends to decline in the winter season and current inventory remains low in Virginia Beach.

Homes show beautifully when they are adorned with Christmas lights and Holiday decorations. And keep in mind, the buyers who are out "shopping" this time of year are very serious and in need of a home!

Source: Real Estate Information Network (REIN)

Jean Bowman
Bowman Realty
Licensed in Virginia



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



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

FOR SALE
4604 Miles Standish Rd
4632 Truman Lane
1020 Five Forks Rd
4709 Little John Rd

SOLD
4728 Little John Rd
1028 Five Forks Rd

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SOLD
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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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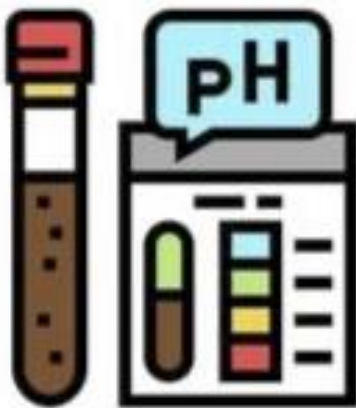
LAKE SMITH TERRACE GARDEN CLUB

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024
At Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd @ Ewell Rd
Social 6:30 p.m. – Program 7:00 p.m.

Garden Tips



Fall is a good time to collect soil and test for pH and nutrient levels. A soil testing kit is available at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agriculture and Research Extension Center located at 1444 Diamond Springs Road. The test measures Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, micronutrients and pH in soil. It also makes recommendations on amending soil to improve plant health, growth and blooms.



Club Happenings

There is something for everyone in Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club.

November was another busy month as members continued weeding the Pollinator Garden at Haygood Point Park. It's hopefully ready for winter!



This month we will be assisting Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach in decorating the Whitehurst Buffington House. Our garden club will be responsible for table arrangements in the dining room and the mantel in the parlor.



No meeting in December as we celebrate the holidays with our families. But do consider checking us out in January! For more information, contact our President, Debbi Babashanian @ babdebbi@gmail.com.

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