



Lake Smith Ripples



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

April 2024

Volume 27, Issue 8



Easter Egg Hunt 2024



2024 Civic League Scholarship Deadline is 30 April

The Civic League will be awarding its annual scholarship to a deserving 2024 graduating high school senior in May. This year's scholarship will be for \$1000. 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 2024.](#)

Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024
Bayside Presbyterian Church
1400 Ewell Rd

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

Presentation

Foster Parenting

by

Laurie Huresky
Virginia Beach Social Services

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

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1st Vice President:	Sam Hribal, 757 232-3018 samhri@verizon.net
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**Newsletter deadline: 25th of the month prior to
month of publication.**

It is springtime in the neighborhood. Early flowering bulbs are in bloom as well as flowering trees and azalea bushes. Most lawns are looking ragged as they always do this time of year. Some residents will be seeking help to clean up their yards after the winter. If you are available to help with yard work and want to make money at the same time, send me your name and contact information. I will add you to the list of available help.

Virginia Beach Traffic Engineering is proposing changes to the traffic pattern at the Haygood Rd – Independence Blvd intersection. Surprisingly, a study has identified that intersection as one of the most congested in the city. The proposal to relieve congestion is to remove the straight through lanes on Haygood and Wishart. Drivers would be limited to either right or left turns. Drivers wanting to go straight across would need to turn onto Independence and make a U-turn or cut through one of the neighborhoods. The most likely neighborhoods impacted are Witchduck and Aragona. Traffic cutting through any residential neighborhood is unacceptable and U-turns on Independence are not a solution. As of now we believe the best solution is to do nothing – make no changes to the traffic flows at that intersection.

Attention graduating high school seniors. Our civic league offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school graduate going on to higher education. The scholarship winner is selected based on academic achievements and community involvement. See the requirements and application form on our civic league website – www.LHGCL.org. The deadline for submitting an application is April 30th. The scholarship committee will select the winning applicant and the scholarship will be awarded at the May civic league meeting. The scholarship is funded by the proceeds from our 50:50 raffles held at civic league meetings and special events, and by generous donations from residents.

We had not planned on having a spring community yard sale this year, but several residents asked that we reconsider that decision. At the March board meeting, it was decided to hold a community yard sale on Saturday, April 27th. The civic league will place an ad in the Virginian-Pilot and place signs at all neighborhood entrances. If you plan to participate, please send me your address to be included in a list of sellers on our website. Send it to jeason913@verizon.net.

We have eight civic league meetings each year. Jack Molovinsky, our program director, works to find presentations on topics with widespread interest. The March civic league meeting had good attendance, and the presentation on container gardening was excellent. Our April civic league meeting will feature a presentation from Virginia Beach Social Services on Foster Parenting. In May, we have scheduled a presentation on the Virginia Aquarium. Come early to enjoy refreshments and fellowship – and to get a good seat.

We would like to see every household be a civic league member. For a small annual household dues payment you can support your civic league by joining. No other action is required. While we like to see members participate in civic league meetings and special events, there is no obligation to do so. If you have not yet become a member, please consider doing so today. The application form is in this newsletter.

I invite everyone to come to the April civic league meeting.

John Eason

How to Seal a Deck

Keep your wood deck looking beautiful by applying a fresh coat of deck sealer every year or two.

If you've opted for a clear or lightly tinted deck sealer to keep the grain of your wood deck showing through, good for you. Few surfaces can compete with the natural beauty of wood, but your good intentions come with a DIY challenge: wood decks require vigilant maintenance to maintain their natural good looks, and you'll have to refinish and seal your deck on a regular basis to keep it beautiful and splinter-free.

The job has two parts: cleaning the deck and applying a deck sealer.

Cleaning the Deck

Start by removing any gunk and debris from between boards — screwdrivers and putty knives are good tools for this chore. Then give your deck a good sweeping.

To prep your deck for sealer, first give it a cleaning using a deck cleaner available at any hardware store or big box outlet. If you have a cedar or redwood deck that's stained with mold or mildew, use a deck brightener to help remove stains.

You'll want to protect nearby shrubs and plants with plastic sheets before you start and choose a cloudy but not rainy day for applying the deck cleaner. That way, the sun won't dry out the cleaner too fast. Apply the cleaner with a paint roller, a garden sprayer, or a bristle brush. To clean wood railings and posts, work from the bottom up. If you work from the top down, spills and splatters can get on dry wood, leaving spots that are difficult to remove.

Let the cleaner sit according to the manufacturer's directions, then rinse thoroughly. Let your deck dry completely — give it at least 48 hours before applying a deck sealer.

Applying a Deck Sealer

Sealers and stains are available at home improvement centers for about \$30 per gallon — enough to cover 250 square feet of decking.

When it comes to choosing the best deck sealer, you've got several choices. In general, the more opaque the sealer the better its weather and wear-fighting abilities. However, lighter finishes let more of the wood's natural grain and beauty show through. The clearer the deck sealant, the more often you'll have to

clean and seal your deck.

- Clear and wood-toned sealers enhance wood's natural grain and color.
- Semi-transparent deck sealer/stains are lightly pigmented and let grain show through but change the tone of your wood. They come in shades of blue, gray, brown, green and red.

Check the forecast for a clear, two-day period with moderate temps between 50 and 90 degrees. Sand the deck to remove any fuzzy grain raised by the washing. Use 80-grit sandpaper, and thoroughly sweep or vacuum the decking when you're done. This is a good time to countersink any raised nail heads or popped screws.

Apply painter's tape to any nearby surfaces such as siding that you need to protect. Apply the deck sealer with a natural bristle brush. A roller is faster, but brushing helps force the sealer into open pores and grain. Make sure to get the sealer into joints where two boards butt together. Apply the deck sealer to three or four boards at once, working their entire length. You don't want to spill or lap over onto adjacent boards or you'll have splotches that are hard to conceal.

Source - <https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/outdoor-spaces/decks--porches-and-patios/how-to-seal-a-deck>



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Walking



Finally, the days are getting longer and warmer. People are starting to get out of their houses more and more. A lot of our neighbors are walking, biking or jogging around our community. If you are not one of them maybe, it's something that you should consider. Walking is the most popular physical activity among adults in the United States. It is a gentle, low-impact exercise that can ease you into a higher level of fitness and health.

Walking is the easiest way to begin the exercise habit. It is one of your body's most natural forms of exercise. It's safe, simple, doesn't require practice, and the health benefits are many. Not only can you do it almost anywhere... it's free! The risk of injury is low for walking, most everyone can do it, it burns calories, and it helps make you fit and healthy. We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood that is so appealing for walking, biking and jogging.

Before you set out, select comfortable footwear and dress in loose fitting clothing. If you find that you need to walk in the street, you should walk facing traffic. Bikers should ride with traffic.

When the sun starts to go down it becomes increasingly difficult for drivers who are concentrating on driving to see walkers and bikers that are wearing dark clothes. Wear white or other colors easily seen in the dark. Recently several people have commented about the "close call" they had with walkers or bikers that were difficult to see because they were wearing dark clothing after the sun went down.

How does this topic relate to Neighborhood Watch? Walking provides opportunities to meet your neighbors and admire our beautiful surroundings. It also gives you the ability to observe more of your surrounding area and to watch for anything that appears suspicious. If you do notice anything or anybody suspicious, call the non-emergency number (757-385-5000) or if a crime is in progress call 911. Walking is good for your health and the wellbeing of your community. Criminals see people walking or biking and they identify them as potential witnesses. They would prefer to operate in communities where the streets are deserted, the houses dark and window shades drawn, not in an active community like ours.

Community Yard Sale

Saturday, 27 April

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.



Just place balloons on your mailbox to help shoppers find your house.



Heather Brinkman



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We need members!!! If you have not done so, please fill out the membership form and mail in your \$20 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 # _____

Email _____

Please mail your check to:

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

(For email broadcast of crime alerts and other community interest topics)

Dues are \$20.00 per household for the 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 position(s) for which you would like to volunteer – not required for membership)

<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Community Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Civic League Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Festival (Picnic, Hayride & Pumpkin Patch) <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments for Meetings & Events <input type="checkbox"/> You name it, I'll do it
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The following new and renewing memberships were received and recorded between February 25, 2024, and March 25, 2024. Thank you for supporting your civic league – we are all in this together.

Memberships are through 2024 unless otherwise

- David & Lilia Adams
- Joe & Karina Campbell
- Eddier & Monica Chisolm (2026)
- Stuart & Janet Forbes
- Terry & Theresa Gray
- Bob & Jo Herd
- Gail & Ava Hicks
- Mike & Shannon Maslow
- Boyd & Betty Perry
- Robert & Mary Poythress (pending)
- Lou & Sonia Ramos
- Nancy & John Scott
- John & Denise Snee
- Mr. & Mrs. M Wade
- Becky Whitson
- Bill & Issy Yoshida
- Michael & Christina Yoshida

Mark your calendar

Neighborhood Cookout

Sunday, May 19th,
2:00- 4:00 p.m.
Haygood Point Park

(Civic League Membership Not Required)

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
and Drinks provided**

**Bring a
lawn
chair**

534

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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

Save! Pay for 8 ads and get the 9th one free!

Important Contacts

Police, Fire & Rescue Emergencies.....	911
Non-Emergency Assistance.....	385-5000
Miss Utility.....	811
Crime Solvers Hotline.....	427-0000
Drug Activity / Graffiti	427-1749
Tall Grass, Trash, Litter, Broken Windows.....	385-5721
Zoning Issues, Trucks, Fences,.....	385-4131
Potholes, Street Signs, Street Repairs.....	385-1470
Animal Control (Option #2).....	385-5000
City Landfill.....	385-1980
Bulk Trash Pickup.....	385-4650
Beach Line (recorded information).....	385-8000

Sex-offender website:
<http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/>

As the first quarter of the year is nearing, and in summary, the real estate market has been strong, especially for sellers. A continuous low inventory of homes has created a huge demand. Home prices are at an all-time high. The combination of high mortgage interest rates, inflation and world events will make it interesting to watch the real estate market as the year progresses.

Homes for sale in our neighborhood and actually, most of Virginia Beach, are going under contract quickly, most often with multiple offers. Since January 1021 homes have been “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 for sale. The list below allows you to see the variation in the price point sold:

Price	Number Sold
0-\$100,000	0
\$101,000-\$200,000	33
\$201,000-\$300,000	244
\$301,000-\$400,000	352
\$401,000-\$500,000	151
\$501,000-\$600,000	79
\$601,000-\$700,000	48
\$701,000-\$800,000	32
\$801,000-\$900,000	19
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	15
\$1,000,000+	48

The most expensive home sold this year closed at \$5,100,000 and the least expensive home closed at \$125,000 in Virginia Beach.

Source: Real Estate Information Network (REIN)
Jean Bowman, Bowman Realty, Licensed in Virginia



**Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since February 2024**



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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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A Few Observations on Neighborhood Traffic Safety

By Jack Molovinsky

The other night I was driving on Five Forks Road and almost hit a woman who was walking on the side of the road. It was dark and raining She was wearing black sweatpants, a black rain jacket and a dark tennis shoes. She did not have any kind of reflective gear nor did she carry a light. I saw her at the last second and swerved to miss her.

A month or so ago, again, I was on Five Forks Road at night. A man dressed in dark clothing was walking (not facing traffic) with a black dog on one of those extending leashes. For some reason he let the dog stretch out the leash and I came within a few feet of hitting it.

Last fall, again, on Five Forks Road in the afternoon, a younger woman was pushing a baby stroller. She was not facing traffic as she walked. Fortunately, I pulled to the left lane as I approached her because, without bothering to look, she decided to cross the street. If I had been in the right lane I would have hit her and the child in the stroller.

Last fall, on Ewell Road, A kid came out of a driveway on a skateboard right into the path of my car. I slammed on the breaks and was able to stop in time. As he skated by me I yelled out the window that he should be more careful as I almost hit him. In return I got the middle finger salute from him.

Why am I obsessing over these and many other unmentioned similar incidents? No one was killed. No one was injured. There was no property damage. So I should forget about it. Right? WRONG! I spent almost twenty years handling motor vehicle accidents for a large insurance company. Accidents in which there was property damage or people were slightly injured, or people were seriously injured, or people were catastrophically injured, or someone died! The worst of them was when they involved a child. Try talking to parents of a child who has been literally cut in half because they rode their bike into the path of an oncoming “dually” pickup truck and see if it doesn’t stick in your mind: like forever!

Spring is here with warmer weather and longer days promoting more outside activities. Why not take to heart a few safety tips that we all know about but some of us choose to ignore?

1. Walk, jog, rollerblade, or skateboard facing traffic
2. Bike, moped, or power scooter with traffic and observe ALL traffic laws; INCLUDING stopping at stop signs and giving turn signals.

3. If you are out at night wear white or light-colored clothing so that you are visible to motorists. If you don’t want to bother changing clothes, how about this? You can buy a reflective safety vest for as little as \$10.00: a clip-on flasher for \$8.00: a flashlight that you wear on your head for \$7.50: glow-in-the-dark light sticks for \$2.00. Is that too much to pay to save yourself or a loved one from broken bones or worse?

4. We have a beautiful park/playground, and everyone has back and front yards and driveways so why let the kids play in the street? Ok, so they are going to play in the street anyway. Make them aware that a sixty-pound body is no match for a 3000/4000-pound automobile or truck.

Drivers, I have not forgotten you:

1. Before you pull out of your driveway you should adjust your seat and seatbelt, the mirrors, the headlights, if necessary, the windshield wipers, if needed, the radio, your sunglasses and light your cigarette. Don’t try to make these adjustments while driving down our narrow streets.

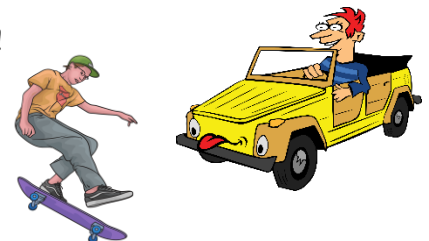
2. The speed limit in our area is 25 mph: not 35 or 40 etc. Even if it is at night and there is no one out on the street, always stop at stop signs and use your turn signals.

3. When approaching a school bus that has its’ STOP SIGN turned off and the SAFETY LIGHTS off, be cautious of the kids walking or running on the sidewalks or lawns next to the street as they are liable to do something really dumb.

4. When approaching a pedestrian or skateboarder or bicyclist or roller-blader or a person standing next to a parked car or a person sitting in a parked car, be cautious as they are liable to do something really dumb.

I will wrap up with this. If someone is killed in a motor vehicle accident everyone is devastated. The deceased person’s family and friends and neighbors and relatives are overwhelmed with grief. The driver of the offending vehicle is a wreck as are his or her family and friends and neighbors and relatives. The only person who isn’t devastated is the deceased person. Because a dead person is never devastated. A dead person is only dead!

THINK ABOUT IT!



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LAKE SMITH TERRACE GARDEN CLUB

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

A visit to Brent & Becky's Bulb Farm Gloucester, VA

The members of Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club enjoyed a wonderful outing on Saturday, March 23 to Brent & Becky's bulb farm in Gloucester, VA. After a delicious lunch at Olivia's in the Village we were treated to a two-hour tour by Becky herself of their home garden and the public garden at their shop. A sure sign spring has sprung!



If you would like to visit our club and learn more about us, contact our President, Debbi Babashanian @ babdebbi@gmail.com.

Come Grow With Us!!!!!!

April 23 Program Native Plants for Hampton Roads with Norfolk Master Gardener

Kay Egan

Join us at our April meeting where Norfolk Master Gardener, Kay Egan, will tell us what plants are native to our area and do well in our gardens. Kay is the current president of the Norfolk Master Gardeners.



Got Plants?

**We do! Come meet us
at our annual spring plant sale!**

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8am-1pm

**Haygood United Methodist Church
4713 Haygood Road, Virginia Beach**



Please join LSTGC for our annual spring plant sale! Our sale features locally grown plants from a locally owned nursery, and includes beautiful hanging baskets, lots of flowering annuals, pollinator friendly plants, herbs, grasses, perennials, tropical beauties, and more. Sale proceeds will go to Lynnhaven River Now, Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach, Tidewater District Flower Show, Friends of First Landing and Brock Environmental Center, as well as our club to fund the expenses for neighborhood entrance way beds. In addition, our homegrown section has plants from our members' gardens, as well as misc. yard decor.

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