

Lake Smith Ripples

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

January 2024

Volume 27, Issue 5

Happy New Year
2024



James convinces Santa Claus that he's been nice and not naughty and confirms that Santa fully understands what's on his list. The Jolly visitor from the North Pole was in attendance at the annual Civic League Christmas Potluck Dinner. In addition to Santa, the popular event included dinner, friendship and door prizes.

Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, January 16, 2024
Bayside Presbyterian Church
1400 Ewell Rd

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

Presentation

Bay Lake Retirement Community

by

Tayler Impervento

Director of Marketing and Community Relations at
Bay Lake Retirement Community

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 jason913@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:	
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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: Editor	Rick DeJaegher, 757 575-1407 rhdejaegher@gmail.com
	<u>Advertising</u>
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.**

Looking back over the past year, we came out of the COVID-19 pandemic and strived to return to a period of pre-pandemic normalcy. I believe we accomplished that objective. In addition to eight monthly membership meetings, your civic league sponsored three large well-attended special events and published nine editions of the Lake Smith Ripples. We also promoted and maintained a robust neighborhood watch program, a primary factor for our neighborhood's low crime rate. In the background, the civic league continuously monitored large rezoning issues throughout the city – the kind that can be detrimental to established neighborhoods. We also continued our opposition to a new traffic signal at the Paul Revere – Independence intersection. The civic league was at the forefront of rejuvenating the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations, an organization that supports civic leagues and homeowner associations throughout Virginia Beach. Our permanent representative to the VBCCO is Megan Earlenbaugh. Last month, we held the civic league's Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner event. Approximately ninety residents came out to enjoy an evening of dinner and fellowship. There were twenty-four lucky winners of the door prizes, and the children got to visit with Santa Claus. It was nice to see such a strong turnout for the event. It was a busy and successful year in 2023.

We have now crossed into 2024 and we are all a year older and wiser. Looking ahead, Jack Molovinsky, our Programs Director, has scheduled some interesting speakers for our monthly membership meetings. This month, we will have a presentation from Tayler Impervento, the Director of Marketing and Community Relation at Bay Lake Retirement Community. Please put the meeting in your calendar – it's Tuesday, January 16th – and spend an hour with your friends and neighbors. If you have a program topic that you believe would be of interest to our residents, please contact Jack Molovinsky.

As we start this new year, our annual membership drive is in full swing. In this newsletter, you will find a membership form and a preaddressed envelope. If you have not already joined or renewed your civic league membership for 2024, please take a minute and do so at this time. Household memberships are a very affordable \$20 per year. It's the best deal in town. Ours is a highly active civic league that works to support and protect our neighborhood's value and quality of life. We need a strong membership base to have a strong civic league. By becoming a civic league member household, you are supporting your community. Whether you own or rent, if you live here, you can join your civic league. Let's all be members.

We are still seeking people available to perform yard work or snow removal. Occasionally I receive calls from residents looking for help with such things as shrub trimming, leaf bagging, pulling weeds, clearing overgrowth and snow shoveling. If you have someone in your home who can do these type tasks, and would like to earn some money, please send me their contact information so we can have names on the referral list. Stay safe and stay warm – the cold months are ahead of us. And please watch out for your elderly or disabled neighbors.

John Eason

How to Winterize your Car

HAVE YOUR CAR SERVICED FOR WINTER CONDITIONS

Before you hit any harsh winter conditions, have your vehicle serviced to prepare it for the challenges winter can pose.

- Battery – Battery power decreases as the temperature drops, meaning that it takes more power to start your car in the winter. If your battery is already having problems, your risk of breaking down increases.
- Cooling system – It is recommended to maintain a ratio between 50/50 and 70/30 of antifreeze to water. Ask your technician what antifreeze should be used for your vehicle and the appropriate coolant-to-water ratio to prevent against corrosion and potential freezing.
- Brakes – While cold weather doesn't necessarily hurt your brakes, a thorough inspection can ensure the best performance when driving in winter conditions.
- Belts, hoses, spark plugs, wires and cables – These can go bad at any time of year, but if they go bad during the winter, you could be stranded in a very cold place for a very long time.

MAINTAIN TIRE PRESSURE

Every 10° change in ambient temperature could mean a gain or loss of 1 PSI. This means you should check pressure more regularly during winter and refill your tires as needed. Appropriate pressure for your tires can be found on the tire placard in the driver's side door jamb or in your vehicle owner's manual.

CHECK FOR CHANGING TEMPERATURES THAT COULD AFFECT TRACTION

Before going out for a long winter drive, check to see how temperatures may change while you're out. Changing temperatures can affect both your traction and driving ability if there is a sudden change that you're not prepared for example, how you should drive in 0° weather is much different than how you can drive in 32° weather. You generally have better traction at 0° than you do at 32° due to surfaces becoming more slippery at these higher winter temperatures.

KEEP WASHER FLUID FULL

Replace your windshield wiper fluid often. A single snowstorm can exhaust a large amount of this fluid, so refill the washer reservoir frequently with windshield wiper fluid formulated for winter conditions. If you're unsure if your washer fluid is the right formula for low temperatures, add a bottle of washer fluid antifreeze to the reservoir. You'll find it at most auto parts stores.

KEEP THE GAS TANK AT LEAST HALF FULL

Fill up often! Keeping gas in the tank is more important in winter than in summer. Why? For one thing, a full tank reduces condensation, which can prevent gas line freeze ups. Not only that, but if you're ever stranded, your engine may be the only thing to keep you warm until help arrives.

KEEP YOUR REAR-WINDOW DEFROSTER IN WORKING ORDER AND HAVE A WINDOW SCRAPER

Being unable to see behind you could create unsafe driving conditions. That's why several states have laws stating that all your windows must be clear of condensation and debris. When winterizing your car, check your rear-window defroster before cold weather arrives to be sure it's working properly, and you have a window scraper.

LEARN WINTER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

It's important to know what to do before you are in an emergency in case you ever get stuck. If you get stuck in a winter storm while driving:

- Do not leave your car for risk of losing sight of it.
- Do not run your car for long periods of time. Instead, turn it on long enough to stay warm, and then turn it off to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Then, repeat as needed.
- Put your dome lights on to attract attention.

LEARN HOW TO DRIVE IN WINTER CONDITIONS

It's best to know how-to drive-in winter conditions before getting on snowy or icy roads.



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Hello Neighbors,

Our annual membership drive is underway and we need your support! For a modest fee of \$20 per household per year, you and your family can be members of the civic league. The annual dues helps to keep your neighborhood civic league up and running. Our fiscal year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Please show your support by sending in the completed membership application along with your \$20 annual dues made out to the LST/HP/GS Civic League.

Membership entitles you and your household to participate in our many neighborhood events. Below are some of the services we provide to our members:

- Monthly membership meetings with guest speakers
- Supports a Certified Neighborhood Watch Program
- Publishes and hand-delivers the Lake Smith Ripples
- Maintains civic league website (www.LHGCL.org)
- Provides email broadcasts to members regarding safety, lost pets, and other areas of concern or interest

Our civic league is very active and one of the best in Virginia Beach because of the strength of our membership. Please take a moment and join today!

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 \$20.00 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 |



Christmas Potluck Dinner 2023
 Friendship, food, Prizes,
 and a visit from Santa



*Happy New Year!
Let's make 2024 a great one.*

It only takes a few minutes for a burglar to go through your home and take what they can carry out. Security systems, the best locks and the biggest dog won't stop anyone that is determined to break in. That is why it is so important for neighbors to watch out for each other.

Ask yourself, what would make my house one that a burglar would not want to hit?

- Check sliding-glass and garage doors and windows. Are they vulnerable?
- If you hire anyone to do work inside of your home check all of your windows when they leave to ensure that they have not been unlocked to provide easy access back into your home by an unscrupulous worker.
- Be cautious when you hire anyone to do any chores in or outside of your home. They may do some work while checking out your property for things that they or their friends can come back later and steal.
- Lock it up. Too much of the crime is the result of people leaving vehicles sheds and garages unlocked.
- If you leave a one-hundred-dollar bill laying on your car seat there is a chance that someone who sees it will break the window and take off with your money but if you cover that bill with a hat or something else the chances of your window being broken, and your money stolen will be greatly reduced. Hide your valuables.
- Record serial numbers. If you have anything of value stolen, having a record of the serial number is your only chance of recovering it.
- If burglars believe they would be in full view of neighbors, they will avoid your home.

Another program that goes hand in hand with Neighborhood Watch is the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Citizens Advisory Committee is a program that brings Civic Leagues from the 3rd Precinct together to discuss their concerns. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Williams Farm Recreation Center, 5252 Learning Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 at 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome. The 3rd Precinct Commander gives a report of the past months crime and is available to help with any issues that you may have. Various city departments are represented and available to address your concerns. The meetings are usually over by 8 p.m.



Scams

There seems to be an increase in the number of bogus emails & phone calls --- you've won a lottery, some foreigner needs to send you millions of dollars or you need to update your credit card information, all with the objective of taking your hard-earned money. These communications will generally ask you for personal information and/or a payment in advance of receiving something or may indicate a need to update your account by obtaining personal information. This is called "phishing" (as in "fishing for information" and "hooking" victims) a scam where internet fraudsters send email messages to trick unsuspecting victims. Never respond to or act upon e-mails, phone calls, or select web links from any unknown source that requires you to provide, update, or verify personal, financial, or other confidential information. Remember if it sounds too good it is probably a scam.



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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.

- 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!

Got a Boat?

Want to get it
inspected?

For Free?



We are fortunate to have two USCG auxiliary vessel examiners living in our neighborhood who are offering to provide complimentary safety examinations of recreational boats, paddle boards, kayaks or other personal watercraft for members of our community.

The Auxiliary's main mission is to support the active-duty members of the Coast Guard in promoting recreational boating safety. They are willing to check vessels on land or in the water. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, just call or text **Charlie Hurd 757-646-7661, or Skip Banner 757-871-9591.** *Neighbors helping neighbors - that's what it's all about.*



The month of January is usually associated with a resurgence in the real estate industry, as buyers and sellers plan their real estate needs for the new year.

It is also a perfect time to look back and see how the real estate market fared in the City of Virginia Beach. Below is a “snapshot” of housing statistics for the past year, which overall was an extremely good year:

Current Inventory: 638 detached and attached properties (remains historically low).

Pending: 278 properties are under contract and preparing to close.

Sold: 5,605 properties have sold in the past year (down from last year).

Below are the price ranges for the homes SOLD:

0-\$100,000	6
\$101,000-\$200,000	331
\$201,000-\$300,000	1422
\$301,000-\$400,000	1684
\$401,000-\$500,000	806
\$501,000-\$600,000	428
\$601,000-\$700,000	241
\$701,000-\$800,000	159
\$801,000-\$900,000	113
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	115
\$1,001,000-\$2,000,000	243
\$2,001,000-\$3,000,000	20
\$3,001,000+	12

The lowest price sold in the past year was \$25,000 and the highest price was \$ 7,200,000.

Future prices will be determined by the “supply and demand” as well as values of previously “SOLD” homes within the past 12 months.

Source: Real Estate Information Network (REIN)

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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.

From Trash to Beach?

The garden clubs in the Tidewater District of Garden Clubs of Virginia were challenged to collect 500 pounds of plastic in 6 months to be turned into a bench to be placed at the Norfolk Botanical Garden through the TREX Recycling Program.

We are proud to announce that Lake Smith Terrace collected over 300 pounds on their own and the District has qualified for that bench!

More importantly, we are very proud to have kept over 300 pounds of plastic out of the landfills. We could not have done it without the support of Azalea Inn Restaurant on Little Creek Road in Norfolk. They heard of our collection and their delivery drivers donated bags, and bags, and bags, and bags....we are grateful for their support! But our members, their friends, family, and neighbors, all saved plastic grocery bags, plastic sandwich bags, produce bags, Amazon mailers and more!

Read more about TREX at nextrex.com. We will be participating in this program again starting January 1. If you would like to save your plastic and support our cause, reach out to Debbi at babdebbi@gmail.com



January Program Ikebana Floral Arranging

Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club is thrilled to have Ryoko Vogel, Ikebana instructor from Sensyo Ikenoba School as our January speaker on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

Ryoko (shown top photo on right) will be demonstrating the art of Ikebana floral arranging, and we will be raffling off her finished designs to those in attendance.

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

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