



Lake Smith Ripples



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

February 2024

Volume 27, Issue 6



February 14th

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, February 20th, 2024
Bayside Presbyterian Church
1400 Ewell Rd**

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

Presentation

**Project Safe House
Human Trafficking**

by

Representatives of Project Safe House

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

It's mid-winter and daylight is slowly getting longer every day. This year we even have an extra day in February. Do you believe those born on February 29th age a bit slower? After all, they only have a real birthday every four years – just food for thought.

Those who attended the January civic league meeting heard an informative presentation by representatives from the Bay Lake Retirement Community. The turnout was not large, but those in attendance asked many questions, and there appeared to be quite a lot of interest in the subject. Keep in mind, we have eight civic league membership meetings each year. They are always on the third Tuesday of the months of January to May, and September to November. The venue is the fellowship hall at Bayside Presbyterian Church. Meetings convene at 7:00 PM and typically adjourn in about an hour or so. Please mark your calendars and spend some time with us. You won't be disappointed.

This month, we have a very timely presentation from representatives at Project Safe House. This is an important organization that assists and advocates for victims of human trafficking. It is a huge problem in this country today because it has increased with the virtually unchecked onslaught of migrants crossing our southern border in the last couple of years. The date for this meeting is February 20, 2024. I hope to see all of you there. This is one you don't want to miss.

Our 2024 civic league membership drive is underway. As of today, we have 224 member households on the active roster. My *personal goal* for 2024 is 450 households. That is 50 percent of our 900-home neighborhood. Help Jean Bowman and her membership committee reach that goal today by completing and mailing the membership form in this newsletter. Our low annual household dues are \$20.00. It is a small price to support this active civic league that works on your behalf throughout the year.

Recently while attending the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) meeting I had the opportunity to speak with Virginia Beach city manager, Patrick Duhaney. I thanked him for the role he may have played in preventing the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Paul Revere and Independence. Our civic league has opposed that project since it was in the planning stage about four years ago. We see a traffic light at that intersection as being a detriment to our neighborhood primarily by increasing cut-thru traffic on our narrow residential streets – most with no sidewalks. Last year I sent a letter to Mr. Duhaney reiterating our opposition to that project. The civic league will continue to monitor the issue.

You may have noticed the medical practice at Copperfield and Independence has closed or moved. That was the business that prompted our community to petition the city for No-Parking signs on the streets around that intersection to curb the employees parking their vehicles in front of our residents all day. The building is now for lease. We will watch with interest to see what business moves there.

There are still weeks of winter ahead of us. Please be sure to watch out for your elderly or disabled neighbors. A helping hand or even just a simple phone call is appreciated – and it's the right thing to do.

John Eason

It's Pruning Time

Pruning is a horticultural practice that alters the form and growth of a plant. Based on aesthetics and science, pruning can also be considered preventive maintenance. Many problems may be prevented by pruning correctly during formative years for a tree or shrub. It's good to prune to promote plant health, remove dead branches or branches that are rubbing together. Pruning can also encourage flower and fruit development and encourage hedge growth.

Timing is Everything!

The late dormant season is best for most pruning. Pruning in late winter, just before spring growth starts, leaves fresh wounds exposed for only a short length of time before new growth begins the wound sealing process. Another advantage of dormant pruning is that it's easier to make pruning decisions without leaves obscuring plant branch structure. Pruning at the proper time can avoid certain disease and physiological problems:

Prune before or after blooming?

Trees and shrubs that bloom early in the growing season on last year's growth should be pruned immediately after they finish blooming:

- apricot
- azalea
- chokeberry
- ^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}chokecherry
- clove currant
- flowering plum^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]} or ch
- forsythia
- Juneberry
- lilac
- magnolia
- early blooming spirea



Shrubs grown primarily for their foliage rather than showy flowers should be pruned in spring, before growth begins: alpine currant, barberry, buffalo berry, burning bush, dogwood, honeysuckle, ninebark, pea shrub, purpleleaf, sand cherry, smokebush, sumac

Shrubs that bloom on new growth may be pruned in spring before growth begins. Plants with marginally hardy stems such as clematis and shrub roses should be pruned back to live wood. Hardier shrubs such as late blooming spiraeas and smooth (snowball) hydrangeas should be pruned to the first pair of buds above the ground. To learn more about the best time to prune shrubs download the Shrub Pruning Calendar

<https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/documents/vce/001763.pdf>

In recent years, neighborhoods have experienced rapid change.

The old, well-established neighborhood has been replaced by a community where people seek more and more privacy. This lifestyle tends to promote unfamiliarity with neighbors and a corresponding lack of concern. Unfortunately, this enhances the opportunities for the criminal element and increases the community's vulnerability to crime.

Nextdoor.com is a website that encourages neighbors to communicate with other nearby neighbors. On that website you will notice that there are many neighborhoods that surround ours that have numerous reports of criminal activity. Lake Smith Terrace, Haygood Point, Governor Square are rarely mentioned. We are doing what it takes to discourage roving, early morning gangs checking for unlocked vehicles. Once they find a community that neglects to keep their vehicles locked, they will return again and again. When they do come into our community and find all the vehicles locked the criminal element will go elsewhere.

We need everyone to buy into Neighborhood Watch to keep out the criminal element. We are fortunate to live in a community where everyone has pride in their homes. This shows those with dishonest intentions that our community is very stable, with longtime residents who support one another.

Get to know your neighbors advise them when you are going to be away for an extended period. Give them your contact information in case they need to contact you while you are away. You will have a better trip if you know that someone is watching your home. In most cases you will be asked to reciprocate when they go on vacation.

The police can't be everywhere all the time, and in truth many law enforcement agencies are undermanned and have limited staffing. But it's a foregone conclusion that in most neighborhoods someone is going to be home, even during the workday or while you're off on a vacation. Neighborhood Watch is a program designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual support and concern among neighbors. Not only will looking out for your neighbors create a sense of community, but it will also help prevent crime and protect property in your neighborhood. Neighbors watching out for neighbors is a better crime deterrent than any burglar alarm.

Greetings Neighbors! Our Membership drive is underway and we need your help! Our goal this year is to reach 400 members! 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 \$ 20.00 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. Membership dues allow us to fund neighborhood events and provide our newsletter to each household. We really need your support!!!

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"/> Easter Egg Hunt
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Festival (Picnic, Hayride & Pumpkin Patch)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments for Meetings & Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic League Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> You name it, I'll do it

As of January 25, 2024, the following households have paid civic league membership dues. Memberships are paid through the year indicated. Thank you for supporting your civic league and neighborhood. If your name is not listed here, please take a moment and join today.

Questions can be directed to 757-642-4844.

			BOUCHONVILLE	MATT & ROSE	2025
			BOWLYOU	CHUCK & SUE	2024
ACKISS	PAUL & JANE	2024	BOWMAN	KEITH & JEAN	2025
ADAMS	DISA	2024	BRANYAN	ANDY & JACKIE	2024
ALBERT	MARTIN & RINDA	2025	BROWN	ANDY & JACKIE	2024
ANDERSON	FLOYD (ANDY)	2029	BRYANT	JANIE	2024
BAILEY	CURTIS	2024	BUCHWALD	SCOTT	2024
BAKER	BILL & SANDY	2024	BUCKLEY	STEVE & DONNA	2024
BALLARD	STAN & SUE	2024	BURINSKAS	BOB	2032
BANNER	SKIP & CLAUDIA	2025	CADDY	TIM & PAT	2024
BANNISTER	THOMAS & LYNNE	2030	CALAMAN	JIM, TERRI & LYNN	2024
BARNES	JOHN & SUSAN	2025	CAREY	MAXINE	2027
BATTLE / WYATT	STEVEN / LYNE	2024	CARVEY	JERRY & DASSA	2033
BEATTY / WOMBLES	B.T. / ALAN	2025	CERVENKA	PETER & BECKY	2024
BELL	ELLEN	2024	CHERWA	JIM & SUSAN	2024
BERTHOLF	BILL & RHONDA	2025	CHERWA	MIKE & ANNETTE	2024
BETZ	TOM & CAROLYN	2024	CHISHOLM	EDDIER & MONICA	2024
BLANK/MCGOFF	NICK/KATIE	2024	CHRISTIANSON	BOB & NIDA	2025
BOBST	MARGARET & FAMILY	2024	CIMBALA	RON & DAWN	2024
BONDMASS	MICHAEL	2025	CONNORS/CALDWELL	ERIN/STEVEN	2026
BOOTH	MIKE & LISA	2024	CONRAD	MARY ANN	2024

COOK	RICK & CAMERON	2024	HAMPTON	DANNY & CLAIVE	2024
COOPER	KEVIN & MARY HUNTER	2025	HARPER	JOE & SUE	2024
COOPER	PAUL & SUE	2025	HEATH	TOM & HEIDI	2024
COSTON	JOHN & GLORIA	2024	HEINBOCKEL	EDIE	2025
COTE	ROGER & TRISHA	2024	HELTZEL	FAMILY	2026
COULL	GRANT & LYNN	2024	HENNESSY	JOE & LAURA	2026
CRAWFORD	MARGARET	2024	HIBAR	JENNIFER & MICHAEL	2024
CREAMER	TRACY	2025	HICKMAN	BILL & DEANIE	2025
CREECH	DONNA	2024	HICKS	JASON & JENN	2024
CRUTHERS	BARRY & SHARON	2024	HO	RAYMOND & PO YING	2024
CURLING	KRIS & MARGARET	2024	HOFACKER	GINA & MITCH	2024
DAVIDOSKI	MARK & KATHY	2024	HOFFMAN	DRAKE	2027
DAVIS	SARA LOU	2024	HOLCOMB	DONNIE & GLENDA	2026
DEAN	JAMES & MARY	2028	HOLDA	BILL & MARY ANN	2027
DECARLIS	DEAN, JILL & LEAH	2026	HONNESS	KYLE & KELSEY	2024
DEGARMO	JONATHAN	2024	HRIBAL	SAM	2024
DEJAEGHER	RICK & KATHY	2025	HUGHES	SUSAN	2025
DESTEFANO	ROBERT	2025	HUNGER	KEITH & MARIA	2024
DEVASIA	DENNIS	2024	HURLEY / BLUSTEIN	SHANNON / JAMES	2024
DIETZ	GINGER & JIM	2024	INGLE	MIKE & STEVE	2024
DOCHTERMANN	JANE	2024	JACKSON	JUDY	2024
DOUGLAS	EDWARD & DEBBIE	2024	JAQUITH	ADA	2029
DOWNING	ROLAND & JEAN	2024	JARVIS	JOHN III & CAROL	2024
DUNBAR	MICHAEL, Sr. & YVETTE	2024	JESBERG	PAULA	2024
DUNCAN	KATHY	2025	JESBERG	RON	2024
DUNSTAN	PATRICK & MADELINE	2024	JONES	LEE & JEAN	2025
DYCUS	RICHARD & MITRA	2031	JONES	PHIL & CHRIS	2024
DYER	SCOTTIE & SPRING	2024	JONES, JR	JAMES T	2024
EARLENBAUGH	DOUG & MEGAN	2024	JOSEY	ALEX & NANCY	2024
EASON	JOHN & EDI	2025	KELLEY	WILLIAM & PAIGE	2024
EDGE	SAM & ROSA	2024	KERNKAMP	WILLEM & ELSE	2024
ELLIOTT	SHERRI & ROBERT	2024	KILLMON	LISA & WAYNE	2026
ERBE	JUSTIN & TARA	2025	KINLOCH	BERNIE & DOUGLAS	2024
FEDOROWICZ	RICHARD & MAUREEN	2024	KIRCHEVAL	DOUG & ROBIN	2026
FITZHUGH	KATE & PHIL	2024	KLAGES	JENNIFER & PARRY	2028
FOSHAY	WAYNE & TEEN	2025	KNIGHT	KEN & PATRICIA	2024
FRENCH	MEREDITH & JOHN	2024	KRENZKE	JOHN & ALEXIS	2024
GARRISON	RONALD & PAULA	2029	KRESSEL	MIKE & KATHRYN	2024
GHOSN	CAROL	2024	KROLL	SAM & NANCY HARRIS-KROLL	2025
GILLIAM	DANIEL & MONICA	2024	KUBAJEK	MICHELE & KRZYS	2024
GIVEN	BETTY	2024	KUHNS	NED & JUDY	2025
GOW	WES & CHRISTINE	2024	LAFOND	KAYLA (FAMILY)	2024
GRAHAM	MIKE & PAULA	2024	LAMBIASE	MIKE & JAN	2024
GRISWOLD	JACK	2026	LAMPELLA	JIM & LESLIE	2025
GRIX	JAMES & SHEILA	2024	LAWRENCE	GRACE	2025
GUSTAFSON / TEPOVICH	CARL / PAT	2033	LECKER	ADAM & CHRISTINA	2024
HASS	BILL	2024	LEITSCH	BILL	2024
HALL	HARRY, MARY JO & CATHERINE	2024	LEMAY	ROBERT & RUTH	2025
			LONG	MARSHALL & STEPHANIE	2024

LOVASZ	MICHAELA & NICK	2024	SCHOENFELD	BARBARA, STEVE & PAT	2026
LOVEJOY	JAY	2024	SEYRLHNER	HEINZ & PILAR	2024
LOVITT / NELSON	ALLEN & CHRISTINE / SAM	2024	SHERMAN	RICHARD & ANDREA	2024
LOWE	PAT	2024	SHOURDS / ROSS	RAY & CLAUDIA / JOHN	2025
LOWE	WAYNE & LAURA	2024	SIFUENTES	MARCO & TRACY	2024
LYALL	DANIEL & YVONNE	2025	SOUDERS	ROBERT L.	2027
MATHEWS	DIANA & GREG	2024	STALLINGS	STEVE & JEANETTE	2025
MAY	ASHLEY	2024	STEIN	GEORGE & MYRA	2025
MAYS / HOLMES	CECIL / KATHERINE	2027	STEPHENS	RICK & CHRISTI	2024
McCARTHY	TIM & LouEllen	2024	STEVENS	STEVE & BARB	2024
MCCOY	HOWARD & ANNA	2024	STOUFFER	MARGE	2024
McNAUGHT	JOE & PAMELA	2025	SUGGS	PHYLLIS	2026
MEISE	PAUL	2024	SUTLIFF	ANN	2025
MENDOZA	GLORIA	2024	SWEIGART	ROBERT	2024
MILES	ROGER & MARY ELLEN	2024	TAYLOR	REGINA	2025
MILLER	MEREDITH & JOSHUA	2024	TERRIEN	LINDA	2026
MITCHELL	ANDY & KAY	2024	THEISZ	TRAUTE	2025
MORROW	DAVID & CHRISTINA	2024	THOMPSON	GARY & NANCALEE	2024
NASH / SIFUENTES	TRACY / MARCO	2025	TONNESEN	ERIK & ANGELA	2026
NOAH	LOUIS & KAY	2028	TOONE	BETH & JIM	2025
NOLAN	ELEANOR & PAUL	2024	TRAYLOR / JACKSON	NANCY / KELLY	2024
NORFLEET	ERIC & ETHEL	2024	TYREE	TOM & MICHELLE	2024
NOVAK / BLAKEBURN	DIANA / ROY	2034	UFFORD	MARK & ABIGAIL	2024
OATES	RON & ELIZABETH	2024	WALSH	CAROLYN	2024
ODERMAN	DANNA & CARL	2025	WATERS	ALLEN & DEBRA	2024
O'DONOVAN	KATIE	2024	WICKS	CAROL	2024
OGLETREE-NANEZ / CRUM	KAREN / SAMMY	2024	WIGGINS	RAY & BARBARA	2025
PACILIO	PAT & JERRY	2024	WILKINS	STEVE & TERRI	2024
PARR	MARIE	2024	WILLEY	LEXY & JOSH	2024
PASQUALINO	NANCY	2024	WILSON	CARLISLE & GAYLE	2024
PERKINS	BRIAN & ELIZABETH	2024	WILSON	JAMES & ELIZABETH	2030
PIACUN	GLORIA	2024	WINTER	TOM & SHERYL	2025
PINCAVAGE/ SROKA	CAROLE / BARRY	2025	WONG	THOMAS & YEN NAN	2027
PORTER	JOE & MARY JANE	2025	WOOLARD	RICK & SANDY	2025
PORTER	JOELY	2024	XEFTERIS	KATHERINE & (SON) PHILIP	2025
POWELL	CURTIS & LENORA	2024	YOUNG	ALVIN & NINA	2024
POWELL	ROBYN & GREGORY	2024	ZERHOUNI	MOUSTAFA & ZAIA	2026
PRENTISS	GREG & GLENDA	2024	ZUIDEMA	CONSTANCE	2025
QUANDT	LENORE	2024			
QUARTARARO	JOE & MABEL	2024			
RAMIREZ	JOSE & DELORES	2026			
RIQUE GARAIZAR	ORZURI	2024			
ROBUCK	DEBORAH	2024			
RUDACILLE	BARRY & JUDY	2024			
RUMNEY	BOB & DEANNA	2024			
RYAN / DUNHAM	BARBARA / JIM	2024			
SANDERS	KEVIN & TRACI	2025			
SANDIFER	MIKE & MICHELE	2028			
SCHLUTER	MARILYN	2026			

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Over the past few months, the number of settled sales has somewhat “slowed”, mostly due to low inventory. Days on the market are a little longer for some homes, others are under contract in a matter of days! Prices have increased and so have interest rates, creating an affordability issue for some buyers and they are forced to rent. With such a short supply of homes it has continued to be a “seller’s market”

The City of Virginia Beach is experiencing a housing shortage. There are only 607 active listings (attached and detached homes) and out of those 197 are under contract which leaves only 413 properties available to purchase. If you consider the City of Virginia Beach has a population of approximately 465,000 people, that is a very low supply of available homes.

It is not uncommon to experience multiple offers on a home for sale due to the low available inventory, but we are not receiving as many offers that we did in the Spring of 2023. The current housing situation is making it more challenging for buyers to even find a home.

Source : Real Estate Information Network (REIN)
United States Census Bureau

Jean Bowman
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Licensed in Virginia



Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since December 2023



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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, March 26th, 2024
At Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd @ Ewell Rd
Social 6:30 p.m. – Program 7:00 p.m.

Ikebana Floral Arranging

The Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club members were honored to host Ryoko Vogel, an Ikebana instructor from Sensyo Ikenoba School, as our January Speaker.

Ryoko demonstrated the art of Ikebana floral design with four beautiful designs representing Heaven-Earth-Mankind

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

February Gardening Tips

Mulch planting beds in early spring to retain moisture, reduce weeds naturally and protect plant roots from extreme temperatures.

Organic mulch will add nutrients to the soil, so it's perfect for mulching flower beds. Look for shredded hardwoods, nuggets of pine bark, pine needles or straw. First, clean up your annual and perennial flower beds. Then work compost into the soil and finish with a 3-4 inch layer of mulch.



Hey Neighbors!

Moving this spring?

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