

Lake Smith Ripples



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

March 2024

Volume 27, Issue 7

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30th, 10:00 a.m. Haygood Point Park



- 🐣 1800 candy filled eggs will be provided for egg hunters between Ages 0-11 yrs. (Some will have tokens for prizes inside).
- 🐣 Egg hunting will be conducted simultaneously in three separate age groups- ages 2 and below, 3-5 years and 6-11 years
- 🐣 The Easter egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 AM, so don't be late!
- 🐣 Each child should bring their own Easter basket to gather eggs.
- 🐣 Cupcakes and drinks will be provided
- 🐣 The Easter Bunny will be available for Photos.

Goodies and fun for the family!

This is a free event for Civic League member households. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews! Not a member? Not a problem! You can join at the event for just \$20 per household. Non-member guests \$5.00



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, March 19th, 2024
Bayside Presbyterian Church
1400 Ewell Rd**

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

Presentation
Container Gardening

by

Mary Hubbard
Virginia Beach Agriculture 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

Officers, Directors, & Representatives

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

Absent a major surprise in March, we have just seen a second green winter. Weather patterns go through cycles, and we are on the warmer side this year. So, if you bought that snow blower hoping to make money this winter, there could still be time to return it. Check your Amazon receipt.

We had a good turnout at the February civic league meeting. Karen Atkiss, representing Safe House Project, gave an excellent overview of the non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide support and shelter to victims of human trafficking. It was an eye-opening presentation with slides and video, and it revealed a significant heart-wrenching problem in this country - one that is very under-reported.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 19th and will feature a presentation by Mary Hubbard from the Virginia Beach Agriculture Department on container gardening. This is a perfect topic as we enter the spring planting season. We are also planning to serve grilled hot dogs with all the fixings beginning at 6:30 PM. Come early and enjoy a hot dog while they last.

One of the responsibilities of your civic league is to vigorously protect our neighborhood's property values and quality of life. We do this by monitoring cases of zoning change requests, new business permits, and zoning violations that have the potential to adversely impact our property values and quality of life. We additionally work in conjunction with the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations. The VBCCO monitors on a city-wide basis, watching for projects that could directly damage existing neighborhoods or indirectly impact neighborhoods by affecting the status of major employers, such as NAS Oceana. There has been a slow but deliberate movement by Virginia Beach Planning Department and City Council to increase the number of available apartments and low-cost housing units by increasing density. They do this by promoting smaller footprints and multi-story building projects brought forward by select developers. This sort of government directed development is simply a means to sidestep the free market system. We must continue to be watchful for any such activity that can be harmful to our neighborhood or residents. Another way we protect our neighborhood is by supporting a vigilant neighborhood watch program. Ours is one of the best, as evidenced by our continuously low level of neighborhood crime. Let's keep watching out for each other – be vigilant. We have a great neighborhood with the very best of people, and we want it to remain the premiere location in Virginia Beach.

Our civic league's Easter Egg Hunt event is coming up this month on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Haygood Point Park. Bring the children out to meet and have photos with the Easter Bunny, and hunt for hundreds of candy filled eggs. Children finding an egg containing a gold coin will receive a special prize. The event is open and free for zero-to-12-year-old children of civic league member households. If you have not joined the civic league for 2024, you can do so at the gate. Household dues are a low \$20 annually.

I hope to see all of you at the civic league meeting on the 19th. Please put it on your calendar today. And, if you have not yet joined the civic league, please consider doing so today

John Eason

Spring Home Maintenance Checklist

Get a head start on what should be an annual spring home maintenance routine.

EXTERIOR INSPECTION

Roof. With binoculars and a keen eye trouble spots can be easily detected. Is there any shingle-shift, suggesting that some fasteners may have failed and need replacing? Any cracked or missing shingles? What about nail-pops? When nails push the tabs of the shingles up, allowing water to penetrate where nails come through the sheathing. All need to be addressed to keep the roof at peak performance.

Chimneys. For a masonry chimney, check the mortar between bricks or stones. Are any coming loose? Is there vegetation growing out of them? Each signals water infiltration. Also, look for efflorescence, a white calcium-like deposit that indicates masonry joints are no longer repelling water but absorbing it. Consider re-sealing masonry with a clear, impermeable or water-resistant barrier material.

Exterior Walls. Whether wood siding, stucco or brick, look for trouble spots, especially under eaves and near gutter downspouts. Water stains normally indicate that gutters are not adequately containing roof runoff. For wood siding, check for openings, damaged areas or knots that have popped out, making way for carpenter ants, and other critters that may burrow through. When inspecting your home's exterior, be sure to examine it from top to bottom for masonry cracks. Routine caulking by homeowners may not do the job. Tuck pointing (removing and replacing cracked mortar) by a brick mason should be considered for larger cracks and A foundation specialist should be consulted when cracks in the foundation are discovered.

Windows. Leakage around windows will admit warm summer air and let cooled indoor air escape, so be sure to check that any caulking and weather stripping has remained intact. A tight seal is the first line of defense against air and water. If you experience condensation inside the glass on double or triple-glazed windows, the weather seal has been compromised, and either the glass or the window will need to be replaced. Spring-clean your windows—inside and out—with a store-bought or homemade window cleaner (one cup rubbing alcohol, one cup water and a tablespoon of white wine vinegar will work just fine) and either squeegee or wipe with a soft cloth. Never use abrasive cleaners or a high-pressure spray washer. Remove and clean screens with mild detergent. Lay them on a dry surface to air-dry before putting them back on. Never power-wash screens. It could damage the mesh.

Decks and Patios. Look for warped, loose, or splintered boards. Remove any debris accumulated in the space between boards. Whether wood, plastic or composite, a deck should be cleaned every year to extend its life. Faded or worn wood decks should be cleaned, stained, and resealed. For composite decking, follow manufacturers' recommendations on seasonal care. For a stone patio, a simple hose down may be all the maintenance that's required unless moss or staining, is present.

INTERIOR MAINTENANCE

General Cleaning. Spring is a good time to clean house areas that often go neglected. Dust or vacuum chair rails, window casings, tops of wall-mounted cabinets and ceiling fans. Use a damp cloth to clean wood and vinyl blinds. Vacuum upholstered furniture and consider renting a carpet cleaner. Anything you can do to remove settled dust, mites, and allergens will make for a cleaner and healthier home. If grease residue is detected in the kitchen, consider washing cabinets, backsplashes and walls with warm water and mild detergent. Similarly, in the bathroom where soap residue and fluctuations in heat and humidity combine to create the perfect breeding ground for mold and mildew. While cleaning tile, look for areas of worn or missing grout, as these may lead to more serious water damage if not repaired.

Air Conditioning. Make sure that air conditioning units are in good working order for the warmer months. Change filters, check hose connections for leaks, ensure drain pans and condensate lines are draining freely. Vacuum any dust that has settled on the unit and connections which can impact cooling effectiveness. If performance problems were evident last summer, now is the time to call in a professional.

Attics. Search for signs indicating insects or critters have colonized. Also, search aggressively for evidence of leakage, and mold, which often takes the form of gray or black blotches that look like staining. Proper insulation and good ventilation will deter mold growth in the attic, so act now to prevent the problem from developing in the warmer months ahead.

Leaks. Check for leaky faucets, clogged drains and sweaty pipes. Check under kitchen and bathroom sinks to ensure pipe connections and hoses are properly sealed. Look for wetness around the dishwasher. Check wash machine hoses for cracks, bulges or dampness, and for signs of corrosion and leaks on hot water heaters.

OUTDOORS: Watering system. Check pumps, pipes and faucets for leaks, and check to see that in-ground sprinkler heads are working properly.

Found at : www.bobvila.com/articles/2355-spring-home-maintenance-checklist/#.WP5YdNlyvIU

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Car Thief Grief

In last month’s Neighborhood Watch article I wrote again about how our community has not had any instances of people checking for unlocked vehicles. Well, a couple of days after I sent the article to our editor, it happened.

At approximately 4:30 in the afternoon on January 27th, there was a case of attempted car theft at our neighborhood park. Brian, who was in the park with his family at the time of the incident, advised us of the details. There were several people in the park when a black car with temporary tags stopped in the street. A passenger got out and tried door handles of the cars parked adjacent to the park. He found one unlocked and entered the vehicle and found a purse, cell phone and keys. Starting the car, he was attempting to drive away, but an adult from the park ran toward the vehicle. The thief panicked and left the vehicle with the cell phone and purse. He got back into his car, and they drove away. It appears there were three people in the vehicle – two black males and one female. The police were called and responded. VBPD detectives are currently investigating. They were able to locate the cell phone the same day it was stolen and obtained fingerprints from it. They are optimistic that it will help to locate those involved.

There is no place safe to leave unlocked vehicles even in broad daylight in a public place like our park. Lock your cars folks.

I just found out that this was not the end of this story. The owner of the vehicle that they attempted to steal does not live in Virginia Beach, but the thieves had their address from the information in the stolen purse. The thieves went to the address and used the stolen keys to steal the husband’s truck.

Apparently, the victim was visiting friends in our area. Advise your visitors to lock their vehicles everywhere, all the time. If you leave something that looks valuable on the seat of your vehicle, that is an enticement, and those with criminal intent will find a way to get it, even if it means breaking your window.

These criminals are often armed with weapons that they stole from other unlocked vehicles that had a gun hidden somewhere inside. There was a recent incident, in a nearby neighborhood, where an owner tried to confront one of these people as they were in his vehicle, and they shot him in the upper arm. Luckily an off duty EMT just happened to come by, applied a tourniquet and saved his life as an artery had been hit. If he had not received immediate medical attention he would have bled to death in a matter of minutes.

I just received word that another crime just took place in Haygood Point. Tools were stolen from the back of a truck. Police have been notified. I don’t have anymore information as it happened just a day or so ago.

Always be aware that everyone is not as law abiding as you are.

Lock your vehicles, hide your valuables, and watch for suspicious people.



Heather Brinkman



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“Spring” into the season and join our neighborhood Civic League! The \$20 annual household membership dues help to support the civic league that works on your behalf every day. Please show your support by sending in the completed form along with your \$20 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. A special “thank you” to all who have joined for 2024. It is greatly appreciated!

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

The following new and renewing memberships were received and recorded between January 26, 2024, and February 24, 2024. Thank you for supporting your civic league – we are all in this together. *Memberships are for 2024 unless otherwise shown.*

Jim & Joan Beauchamp
 Beverly & Jeff Betcher
 Bob & Jeanine Breault
 John Briggs & Sammi Chiu (2025)
 Michel & Marie Buterbaugh (2025)
 Tim & Pat Caddy (2027)
 Cameron & Rick Cook (2025)
 Lyn & Mary Jayne Crutchfield
 Susan Cutrell
 Esther & Glenn Diskin (2025)
 Eddie & Nicole Duckworth
 Brandon & Leah Durant
 Larry & Carolyn Eakin
 Betty Fultz
 Zack & Peggy Gentry
 Daniel & Monica Gilliam (2025)
 Bob & Gayle Gregg
 Jim & Patty Handrahan (2025)
 Perry & Bennie Harrell (2025)

Charlene Hetfield
 Stefanie & Zac Hope (2025)
 Rebecca Howard & Ray Bossola (2026)
 David & Sandy Huband
 Terri Hudson
 Mike & Evonne Jaret (2025)
 Wiley & Vicki Johnson (2026)
 Eleftherios & Andrula Kalogridakis
 Bernie & Doug Kinloch (2025)
 Werner & Linette Knocklein
 Rich Loftus & Jim McNamara (2025)
 Pat Lowe (2034)
 Chase & Jack Lozito
 Chris Lozito & Phill Primeaux
 Serena & Terry Lucy
 Bill & Victoria Marchand (2025)
 Frank & Judy Marlow (2025)
 Jane & Ed Martin
 Denise Mitchell (2025)

Continued on page 6

Membership continued from page 5

Jack & Jacquie Molovinsky
Chris & Manuela Morrison
Betty Moye
Andrea Nichols
Eleanor Nolan (2025)
Randy & Georgia Owens (2025)
Jerry & Chris Payne
Ralph & Annegrete Peterson (2025)
Dick & Joanne Rentner (2025)
Keane & Gay Robbins (2025)
Jack & Betty Rudiger
Joanne Sanderson
Eileen J. Schneider

Duane & Ruby Smith
Jacob & Jessica Steinmetz
Margaret Stouffer (2026)
Ann G Sutliff (2026)
Aaron Skellenger
Ben & Priscilla Svedberg
Linda Terrien (2027)
Eylem Tokcan
Ming Troung
Jody & Bill Ullmann
Mickey & Wyllys Vanderwerker
Charles & Sharon Votava
Al Wallace



Don't forget to spring ahead for daylight savings time on March 10th, and remember to wear that green outfit on St. Patrick's Day March 17th.



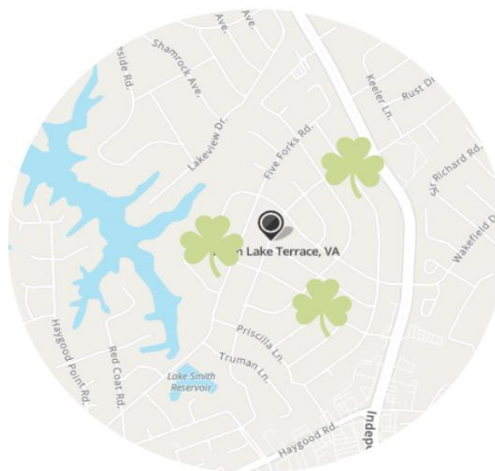
Lucky Client Reviews!

"We had an amazing experience with Alison Creamer & Co and found our dream home! Alison went above and beyond to help us buy and sell our home. She was very personable, responsive and knowledgeable, and most importantly honest. We couldn't be happier!"

- Buyer / Seller 2019

"From the first day right through closing Alison was there with great marketing skills and very knowledgeable and we were able to sell our home in a timely manner"

- Seller 2022



"Alison is our agent for lifetime. She found our dream house in Virginia Beach. If we ever decide to move out, she is going to be the one to find a lucky client for our house. She is like a family to me. She is one in a million!"

- Buyer/Seller 2018/2020



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As spring approaches remnants of autumn still line the gutters of several neighborhood properties.



The city and residents share responsibilities for keeping curbs and gutters free of obstructions. Although a city contractor sweeps the streets six times a year, the focus of the task is to remove debris from the road surface where vehicles operate and does not include the removal of large accumulations of leaves from gutters. Residents are responsible for everything up to the point where the gutter meets the road pavement.

The responsibilities for residents are laid out in the City's Code of Ordinances: **residents are responsible for keeping the sidewalks, curbs and any right-of-way in front of their property, up to the point where the concrete gutter meets the road pavement (in our neighborhoods the black asphalt), free and clear of debris and litter.** It's all part of keeping our neighborhoods safe and attractive. The city will collect up to 25 bags of leaves in clear plastic trash bags on regular trash collection days. So, if pesky leaves are lining the gutters in front of your property please bag them up and take advantage of this service.



Advertise in the Ripples

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/>

During the home selling process, repairs can be a necessary part of the transaction. Buyers have a home inspection and negotiate a list of repairs that the seller is required to complete before settlement. An issue that can arise is a need for city permits and the time involved to pull the permit and have the city complete the final inspection.

The Real Estate Information Network (REIN) provides a Consumer Disclosure Information Form for buyers and sellers which states:

“BUILDING PERMITS: Certain improvements or repairs to buildings on properties require permits from the jurisdiction in which the property is located. Permits are required for some additions, modifications and remodeling including building construction, electrical, plumbing, mechanical installations and maintenance. The purpose of a permit is to ensure compliance with the State Building Code. Virginia cities, towns and counties enforce the Uniform Statewide Building Code. A buyer should undertake such due diligence as buyer deems appropriate to ensure the permits have been secured and inspections performed”.

Here are a few examples of repairs that require an application for a permit as well as a final inspection from the City of Virginia Beach:

- Removal/abatement of underground oil tanks
- Roofs on attached properties (townhouses)
- Ductwork replacement
- Structural repairs which includes crawl space work
- Gas HVAC replacement/ Gas Hot Water heaters-any gas equipment
- Electrical Panel Replacement
- New decks and fences
- Additions
- Crawl Space Encapsulations
- Driveways

Please contact the City of Virginia Beach permit department to verify if any improvements or repairs that require a city permit.

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

Lake Smith Terrace Happy 58th Anniversary



The members of Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club celebrated their 58th anniversary on Saturday, February 24th at Cypress Point Country Club with a delightful luncheon. (Yes, the cake says 59th)



March 26 Program Veggie Gardening

Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club's March program is titled "*Veggie Gardening*." Will Redfern is our speaker and is a Norfolk Master Gardener. He will share with us how to kick off our vegetable gardens this year. Guests are welcome.



Photo credit to Norfolk Master Gardeners

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

Come Grow With Us !!!!!

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