

Lake Smith Ripples



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

September 2024

Volume 28, Issue 1



Natalie Duckworth Selected as Scholarship Recipient for 2024

Every May the Civic League awards a deserving high school senior a \$500 scholarship to the University of their choosing. The scholarship is funded by our 50/50 drawings held during general meetings and special events. This year, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous resident, the scholarship was increased to \$1000 for our winner Natalie Duckworth. Natalie has attended Norfolk Christian Academy since Kindergarten. She received the Directors Award each quarter for the past four years and the Award for Excellence for many of her classes. She also received the National Latin Exam Certificate of Honorable Merit – Magna Cum Laude 10th grade and Summa Cum Laude for the 8th, 9th & 11th grades. For the past four years she has been involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Mid-Atlantic Region as a Youth Ambassador. Her outreach includes advocating for the continued funding of the government's Special Diabetes Program, that provides 150 million dollars annually

for Type 1 Diabetes research through telemarketing, email campaigns and meeting members of Congress. As the National Honor Society President, she has organized community service projects, food, and toy drives, and a donation drive for a local pregnancy resource center. She also tutors students in math, while maintaining a 4.31 GPA. She plans to attend the University of Virginia in the fall to study Public Policy with the goal of attending law school. When you see her in the neighborhood, delivering your Ripples, please congratulate her on being our 2024 Scholarship winner.



Mark your calendar!

The Civic League's annual Fall Festival is scheduled for 27 October

Food, fun, face painting, bounce house, balloon lady, petting zoo, hayride to the pumpkin patch for a pumpkin

Don't miss it. (Full details in the October Lake Smith Ripples)

Civic League Meeting And Program

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Bayside Presbyterian Church

1400 Ewell Rd

Social period: 6:30 -7:00

Meeting called to order: 7:00 p.m.

Presentation

Benefits of Increasing the City's Urban Tree Canopy

by

Brooke Costanza

Virginia Beach City Arborist

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.**

Our long hot summer is slowly giving way to cooler days. I am sure looking forward to what many believe is the best season in this area – fall.

The civic league's board of directors has continued to meet during the summer months. The board monitors many issues in Virginia Beach that could potentially affect our neighborhood. The board has also been planning the fall events and membership meetings. Our Fall Festival in October will be one you don't want to miss. This year's Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner event will have a special feature - live entertainment.

Our 2024 civic league membership is lagging. We were hoping to be at the 400+ household members by the end of the year. Currently, we have only attained 338 member households. Your civic league is very active and dedicated to the quality of life in our community. If you have not yet joined the civic league for 2024, I am asking you to take a minute to find and complete the membership form found in this newsletter. If you are unsure if your membership is current, please email me at president@lhgcl.org

The Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) is hosting a Mayoral Candidate Forum on Monday, September 23, 2024, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Kellam High School. This will be a moderated question and answer forum with all five candidates for the office of Virginia Beach Mayor in the November 5th election. Our civic league is a member in good standing with the VBCCO and all our residents are invited to attend. Since seating will be limited, please register online for the forum. Go to www.vbcco.org then click on Event Calendar. Our District 9 council member is not up for election this year, therefore the only council seat we can vote for is the mayor. It is better to know where the candidates stand on key issues that impact us - the residents. Be an educated voter, not just one that bases decisions on campaign billboards, mailing or yard signs.

Backyard recreational fires pits have become popular in the past few years. It is relaxing and enjoyable to sit around the fire with friends in the evening hours. However, before you get your matches to start that fire, here are a few rules from the Virginia Beach Fire Marshall's office. Your fire pit must be located at least twenty-five feet from anything combustible. The fire pit can be no larger than three feet wide and two feet high. Anything larger is considered a bon fire that requires a special permit. You must have a means to extinguish the fire, and it must be fully extinguished when you are finished. Only clean, dry firewood can be burned in your firepit – no construction material, leaves, weeds, grass, or household trash. Burning anything other than clean, dry firewood can result in a smoky fire that will be annoying to your neighbors. If you have any questions, contact the Virginia Beach Fire Prevention Bureau at 757-385-4228.

Let's have a good turnout at the September 17th civic league meeting. We have very informative presentation on the agenda concerning the benefits of increasing our city's tree canopy. I hope to see everyone there.

John Eason

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer. It was a little too warm for some and a little too wet for others and just perfect for the rest of us. Now we wait to see what fall has in store. If everyone continues to be good neighborhood watch members then crime should not be something that keeps us from enjoying the pleasant fall days that are on the way.

August 6th was National Night Out. Our community did an outstanding job participating. There were 10 separate National Night Out events scheduled throughout our neighborhoods. A couple cancelled when it looked like it might rain. A great big thank you to those that did host an event, in particular:

Elizabeth & Brian Perkins – Beth & Jim Toone - Tracy & Kevin Saunders - Carolyn Graham - Mary & James Dean - Theresa & Terry Gray – Mike & Paula Graham All of the events were well attended and neighbors connecting and reconnecting with each other is what brings us together and helps make this community such a great place to live. Most were visited by members of the VBPD and Animal Control.

If you attended one of these events, thank you. If you were unable to attend one make sure to put it on your calendar for next year, it is always the first Tuesday in August, or consider hosting one of your own. Each year I discover at least one interesting piece of information about someone or someplace.

The next time you are driving or walking through our neighborhood pretend that you are a burglar and try to determine which houses are unoccupied and/or would be easy targets to rob. Then when you get home look at your home and see how it compares to the ones that you would hit if you were a burglar. Does your home look vulnerable? If it does, then you need to make some changes. Put a timer on your lights so that it looks like someone is inside. When you go away for extended periods have a trusted neighbor keep newspapers picked up and remove any notices that get stuck to your front door.

Our Neighborhood Watch program is working thanks to your efforts. Don't get complacent. Continue to watch out for your neighbors. Also, if you see anyone walking or driving around the neighborhood that you feel "just doesn't look right" report them to the non-emergency number (385-5000).

School is back in session. Watch out for students in the morning and afternoon, especially around bus stops. Be aware of speed in school zones. It is 25 MPH when the lights are flashing.

Close and lock your doors and windows. Lock all your doors: porch doors, vehicle doors, garage doors, shed doors.



Give the Dogs a Break

Unpermitted Fireworks are Against the Law



Several resident dog owners have reported an increase in random fireworks being set off in the neighborhood throughout the year. Many dogs are very fearful of fireworks. They may tremble, cower, hide or even run away at the sound of the explosions. On celebratory days such as the 4th of July and New Years Eve dog owners can prepare their canines by tranquilizing them or fitting them with thunder coats to ease their fears, but the random fireworks do not allow them this opportunity.

As a reminder, all fireworks without a permit are prohibited in Virginia Beach. Violators can face misdemeanor charges, fines up to \$2500 and a year in jail. If, however, you are undeterred by the penalty and are unable to control your urge to set off your fireworks, please do so carefully and please be considerate enough to do so on dates when fireworks are normally scheduled. This will allow dog owners to prepare their pooches and reduce the anxiety they may experience with sounds of random neighborhood bangs and booms.



Hurricane Season is Here

Most storms affecting Virginia Beach occur between mid-August and late October.

Be prepared!



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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 help to keep your neighborhood civic league up and running. Our fiscal year runs from January 1st to December 31st. 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
- Plans our annual social events-Fall Festival-Hayride & Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Dinner, and Easter Egg Hunt.

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)

<p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone # _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Please mail your check to:</p> <p>LST/HP/GS Civic League P.O. Box 68883 Virginia Beach, VA 23471</p>
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(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 April 26, 2024, and August 26, 2024. Thank you for supporting your civic league – we are all in this together. Memberships are through 2024 unless otherwise shown.

- Paul & Sue Cooper (2026)
- Daniel & Monica Gilliam (2026)
- David & Christina Morrow (2025)
- Allison & Bradley Schoultz
- Colin & Sharon Smith (2026)
- Adam & Misty Walton
- Katherine Xefteris (2026)

Join now and take the family to the Fall Festival



Repairing Small Areas of Damaged Wood

This is for areas where replacing the full section of wood is not easy and the damage is not sufficient to justify the amount of work needed for the complete replacement. An example is a small area on a window frame caused by a paint chip that allowed water penetration and some rot in the wood to occur. This should not be used on anything with structural impact. This can also be used as a temporary repair when a larger replacement is going to take more planning to get completed.

The first product that will be used is a liquid epoxy which can be found by searching for liquid “epoxy wood hardener” on a site like Amazon. The second product is a two-part epoxy which can be found by searching for “wood epoxy 2 part” on a site like Amazon. The two-part epoxy mixes up like playdough.

Ensure the area to be worked on is dry; and this may take several days to a week after a rain. The first step is to scrape out the very soft flaky wood and brush it out with a paint brush. Then use a paint brush or pour on the liquid epoxy if the surface is horizontal.

Be careful to keep the epoxy only in the area where it is needed, and the wearing of disposable gloves is highly recommended. The wood will absorb the epoxy so multiple coats will be required.

Once the liquid epoxy is dry per the instructions the next step is to mix up some of the two-part epoxy, then form it in the removed area to match the shape you are repairing which again should be done with disposable gloves. This may take more than one application to get the exact shape which can be sanded like wood if needed. I found success with a wet finger and disposable exam gloves to smooth out the two-part epoxy surface, then sanded as needed. Once you have the section repaired, prime and paint.





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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!

Lake Smith Terrace

FALL BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, October 19th | 6 – 8 PM

- Live Music
- Join Us for Dinner – Delicious Options Available for Purchase!
- Festive Fun!



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Tell Jack!

Got an idea for a civic league program or a speaker you would like to hear from? Our civic league program coordinator, Jack Molovinsky would like to hear from you.

Jack is doing a great job in providing us with interesting and informative programs for our monthly meetings, but he wants to know what might interest you. If you have an idea for a program or speaker that might be of interest to our civic league members, please e-mail him at:

pairofjacks507@cox.com

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/>

Let's take a 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 year beginning with January 2024:

Current Inventory: 856 detached and attached properties (low but higher than the same time last year)

Pending: 432 properties are under contract and preparing to close

Sold: 3772 properties have sold to date this year
Below are the price ranges and approximate number of the homes SOLD:

0-\$100,000	1
\$101,000-\$200,000	122
\$201,000-\$300,000	819
\$301,000-\$400,000	1197
\$401,000-\$500,000	602
\$501,000-\$600,000	357
\$601,000-\$700,000	198
\$701,000-\$800,000	123
\$801,000-\$900,000	81
\$901,000-\$1,000,000	70
\$1,100,000-\$2,000,000	163
\$2,100,000-\$3,000,000	28
\$3,100,000+	10

The lowest price sold since January was \$79,500 and the highest price was \$12,300,000.

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

Source: REIN (Real Estate Information Network)

Jean Bowman
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Homes for Sale and Sold
in our Neighborhoods
Since June 2024



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

For Sale

1033 Miles Standish Rd
1041 Pickwick Rd

Sold

4629 Miles Standish Rd
4615 Paul Revere Rd
1045 Patrick Henry Way
1112 Five Forks Rd
4632 Truman Lane
4605 Red Coat Rd
1109 Pickwick Rd

HAYGOOD POINT

For Sale

4708 Crossborough Rd

Sold

4637 Crossborough Rd
736 Harris Point Dr

GOVERNOR SQUARE

For Sale

4643 Truman Lane

Sold

4643 Truman Lane

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4880 Haygood Road 757-466-0877

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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, September 24th, 2024
At Bayside Presbyterian Church, Independence Blvd @ Ewell Rd
Social 6:30 p.m. – Program 7:00 p.m.

Native Plant Girl Scout Project



Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club's youngest member, Eleanor Durant, is active in the Bayside area community through Girl Scouts. She is currently working on her Girl Scout Silver Award. The Girl Scout Silver Award is a prestigious award for girls in grades 6-8 that recognizes their commitment to community service and leadership.

To earn this award, she must complete a significant, sustainable project that addresses a community need, requiring a minimum of 50 hours of work. This project encourages scouts to take initiative, collaborate with others, and develop essential skills. By earning the Silver Award, she not only makes a positive impact in the Bayside community but also gains valuable experience in planning, teamwork, and leadership.



Eleanor's project was planting native plants at the Bayside Presbyterian Church Prayer Garden replacing non-native species with native. She took charge of this project from the beginning by enlisting donations from the members of LSTGC, Southern Branch Nursery, and Norfolk Botanical Garden to provide the plants. She led a team of 10 volunteers from the Bayside Presbyterian and Girl Scouts who showed up to help Eleanor in clearing and planting. They even spotted their first pollinators on the Anise Hyssop

September 24, 2024, Program Can the Woolly Bear Caterpillar Predict Winter? A Peek at Nature's Calendar

With VB Master Gardener
Sherry Kern

Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club's September program is titled "*Can the Woolly Bear Caterpillar Predict Winter?*" Sherry Kern is our speaker and is a Virginia Beach Master Gardener. She welcomes all Woolly Bear Caterpillars to join us! Guests are welcome!



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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