

Lake Smith Ripples





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

October 2025

Volume 29. Issue 2

Civic League Annual Fall Festival Sunday, 26 October 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Haygood Point Park

- Family Potluck Picnic (Please bring a side dish for 4 or more to share)
- Brats, hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the Civic League
- Petting Zoo
- Hayride to the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin (one per family)
- Large inflatable slide
- Face painter
- Fire truck and police car
- Chat with your neighbors and meet new friends

Free to all civic league member households

Not a member, <u>not a problem</u>. Join at the gate \$20.00 per household

Visitors over the age of 12 - \$5.00 per person and must be accompanied by a paid civic league household member

We need volunteers to assist with this event. Please call Edi at 473-3458 if you can help.



Community Yard Sale



Saturday, 18 October 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (rain date - 19 October)

The Civic League will run a newspaper ad and post signs at the neighborhood entrances.

Just place a balloon on your mailbox to help shoppers find your house.



To have your home included in the list of homes to be posted on our website please e-mail your address to president@lhgcl.org or call John at 757-642-4844





Absentee and early voting has begun. Remember to vote on or before November 4th.

Civic League Meeting and Program

Tuesday, 21 October 2025

Bayside Presbyterian Church 1400 Ewell Rd

Social period: 6:30 - 7:00 Call to order 7:00

Presentation
The Chesapeake Bay Tunnel Authority

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.

On September 10th our nation suffered another great tragedy; the senseless assassination of Republican influencer Charlie Kirk in Orem, Utah. Like the assassination of the Leader of the Minnesota House Democratic Caucus, Melissa Hartman and her husband Mark in their home on June 14th, this was a gut punch to the country. The bigger tragedy, however, was the reporting in the news of those who laughed and cheered about these despicable events.

What has happened to our nation? I grew up in an era when patriotism and love of country were real. Whether we aligned with Democrats or Republicans, we were all Americans and we met in the middle. Today, it is either one or the other, but there doesn't seem to be any middle ground. Patriotism starts at home and should be reinforced in the schools. I truly pray for the future of the country our children and grandchildren will inherit.

The largest special event of the year, the Fall Festival, is scheduled for Sunday, October 26, 2025, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, in the Haygood Point Neighborhood Park. We will have a large tent furnished by Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's workforce. Along with good food and numerous activities, it will be a fun time for all. Please bring an appropriate picnic side dish to share. See more details on the front cover. Folks, these large events require a lot of work to plan and facilitate. Unfortunately, we continue to run these events with the same small group of volunteers performing the lion's share of the work. I would like to see more residents step up to assist. It's easy to call balls and strikes when sitting in the stands. My challenge for you is to put on a uniform and come out onto the field. Contact me if you are ready and willing to be a part of the team.

You may have noticed the hint of Halloween in the neighborhood. If you have driven down Five Forks Road, you can't miss the "spirit" of the season at the intersection of Red Coat Road. A well planned and executed

By the time Halloween arrives on October 31st, daylight is waning fast. Every driver should be extra vigilant on neighborhood streets being mindful of all the trick-or-treaters. A moment of inattention could easily lead to a life-altering tragedy.

There is sufficient interest from our residents to justify holding a fall Community Yard-Sale event. The date is Saturday, October 18, 2025, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Rain date is the 19th. The civic league will advertise the event on various online apps and will place signs at all six entrances to the neighborhood. We will also post a list of addresses holding a yard sale on our website. If you are planning to participate, please email your address to president@lhgcl.org or call/text me at 757-642-4844. It is also a good idea to place some balloons by your curb or on your mailbox to make it easier for all of the bargain hunting shoppers to find you. If you are located on one of our smaller side streets, you may want to put some signs at the nearest main road. This is a good chance to get rid of "stuff" you no longer need or want and make a couple of dollars in the process. Good luck and have fun.

Please plan to attend our civic league meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 7:00 PM. This month the program will be provided by a representative from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Authority. Come out and learn more about one of the engineering wonders of the world.

Don't forget to vote on or before November 4th. Generations of Americans sacrificed for us to have and sustain that right.

And, by the way, join your civic league if you haven't already done so.

John Eason



Autumn Maintenance Tips

- Make sure gutters, downspouts and drainage areas are unblocked by leaves and debris. Consider installing gutter guards to make the job a lot easier.
- Probe the wood trim around windows, doors, railings and decks. Use caulk to fill the holes or completely replace the wood.
- Lower humidity and cooler (not yet cold) temperatures make fall a good time to paint the exterior areas of your home.
- To prevent exterior water pipes from bursting during freezing weather, turn off the valves to the exterior hose bibs. Run the water until the pipes are empty. Make sure all the water is drained from the pipes, if not; the water can freeze up and damage the pipes.
- Have your wood-burning fireplace inspected, cleaned and repaired to prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Wrap water pipes that run along exterior walls with pipe insulation or heating tape. It will save energy and prevent them from freezing.
- Clean and replace filters in your furnace or heating system. Contact a licensed heating contractor to inspect and service your gas heater or furnace to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning
- If you use a hot water system for heating, drain the expansion tank, check the water pressure, and bleed your radiators.
- Check the attic to make sure the insulation is installed properly. The vapor barrier on insulation should always face toward the living space. If it is installed incorrectly (with the vapor barrier facing out) then the insulation will trap moisture causing possible water problems. To install attic insulation, unroll the insulation and install pieces of insulation between the joists on the attic floor. Be careful not to step between the joists.
- Check your windows and doors inside and out for leaks and drafts. Caulk cracks or install weather stripping around windows and doors, including the garage door. Replace screens with storm windows and clean them if needed.
- Clean garden tools before storing for the winter.
- Trim dead branches from trees to prevent them from coming down and causing damage in a winter storm.

- Rake up the thick layers of leaves from lawn surfaces.
 Large, wet leaves can compact and suffocate the grass below and can lead to insect and disease problems. It's best to routinely rake or blow them off the lawn or, use a mulching mower to shred them into fine pieces
- Place raked leaves in the compost pile or use as a mulch. You can also add them to flower beds to put a winter blanket on your garden. Don't waste leaves, they're an excellent source of nutrients and organic matter.
- Fall is a good time to aerate your lawn; it will allow moisture and nutrients to get into the roots.
- This is also an ideal time to sow cool season grasses such as fescue and winter rye. Seed will germinate and develop a good root system before freezing temperatures arrive. It's also the right time to fertilize turf grasses. When given adequate nutrients, turf grasses have the ability to store food in the form of carbohydrates during the winter months improving Spring appearance.
- Pests love attics because they are full of nice warm insulation for nesting, and they offer easy access to the rest of the house. With gable vents, ensure that screens are installed behind them to keep the critters out.
- Check carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms and put in fresh batteries. These are very important warning devices to have in a home. Smoke alarms save lives in house fires. Likewise, carbon monoxide detectors can also save lives in homes with oil or gasburning appliances, like a furnace or water heater. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless byproduct of burning oil or natural gas, and it can be deadly. A carbon monoxide detector will sound an alarm when levels get too high. Always install carbon monoxide detectors according to manufacturer's instructions.

On the afternoon of 27 September several of our neighborhood streets were flooded. Although the amount and rate of rainfall was the primary factor, leaves and small tree branches in our street drains contributed to the flooding. It's important that we all keep the gutters and drains in front of our homes clear of debris to prevent flooding of our streets in the future



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Please welcome our new dentist Dr. Kelly Paxton DENTISTRY DONE RIGHT

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October 2025

Membership Jean Bowman

Greetings Neighbors! Our Membership drive is underway and we need your help! Our goal by the end of 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 check made out to LST/HP/GS Civic League. You may also sign up at the Fall Festival. Membership dues allow us to fund neighborhood events and provide our newsletter to each household. We really need your support!!!

Name(s)	Please mail your check to:
Address	LST/HP/GS Civic League
SERVICE STATE OF THE SERVICE S	P.O. Box 68883
Phone #	Virginia Beach, VA 23471
Email	
(For email broadcast of crime alerts and other commu	nity interest tonics)
Dues are \$20.00 per household for the Civic League	7/18 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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Dues are \$20.00 per household for the Civic League The Civic League is always looking for me (Please check any position(s) for which you would	e Year which runs from January 1 to December 31 embers to volunteer in the following areas: Id like to volunteer – not required for membership)
Dues are \$20.00 per household for the Civic League The Civic League is always looking for me (Please check any position(s) for which you would Neighborhood Watch	e Year which runs from January 1 to December 31 embers to volunteer in the following areas: Id like to volunteer – not required for membership) Easter Egg Hunt

The following new and renewing memberships were received and recorded between August 26, 2025, and September 25, 2025. Thank you for supporting your civic league – we are all in this together. Memberships are for 2025 unless otherwise shown.

Mike & Annette Cherwa (2028) Nancy Fetzer Robin & Doug Kircheval (2028) Jeremy & Lindsey Saunders (2026) Renate Thurman

SPOOKY SPIDER SNACKS RECIPE

- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- 48 butter-flavored crackers
- 2/3 cup crispy chow mein noodles
- 1/4 cup raisins
- Spread 1 teaspoon of peanut butter on the tops of 24 crackers.
- Place four noodles on each side of each cracker.
- Top with the remaining crackers.
- Spread a small amount of peanut butter on each raisin; place two on each cracker for eyes.



Don't be a neighborhood ghost!

Join the Civic League. Meet

your neighbors and enjoy

Civic League events - Fun for

the whole family.



I am not aware of any criminal incidents that took place in the past month. However, there

have been a few complaints of the 25 mile per hour speed limit being exceeded on a few of our streets. Some noise complaints, but no criminal complaints that I have been made aware of.



Vigilance by all of you is paying off with fewer criminals willing to take a chance on trying something illegal in our community.

One other deterrent that we have is that we have almost 80 individuals delivering our <u>Lake Smith Ripples</u> to over nine hundred homes nine months of the year. These eyes look out for anything that looks out of order and report it.

Keeping your property safe is still your responsibility.

Here are things we should do to safeguard our possessions.

- Do not leave your vehicles unlocked
- Do not leave anything of value visible from outside your vehicle.
- Park in your driveway or garage if possible
- Leave your outside lights on all night or install a motion sensing light.
- Lock your house when you leave.

If you are leaving town:

- Alert a trusted neighbor.
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery.
- Install timers on interior and exterior lights.
- Leave a car parked in your driveway or ask a neighbor to park in your driveway.

Some of us may be hesitant to report suspicious people or vehicles fearing that we will be regarded as a "Nosey Neighbor". The police would rather you call them and it be nothing instead of wishing that you had calledl.

Our own neighbors are often our single best security device. Neighborhoods in which people are truly concerned with each other and their mutual safety have extremely low crime rates

The greatest deterrent to a would-be criminal is the fear of getting caught. Each concerned citizen is another pair of eyes to let the criminal know that he is being watched. Neighborhood Watch supplies these eyes.

The 3rd Precinct has been experiencing an uptick in stolen cars and stolen firearms from vehicles. The vehicles stolen have been left running in business parking lots and 7 FIREARMS have been stolen from unlocked vehicles in the past 2 weeks!

- *** NEVER LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE RUNNING UNATTENDED
- *** NEVER LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNLOCKED
- *** NEVER LEAVE A FIREARM IN YOUR VEHICLE

Virginia Beach 3rd Precinct Citizens' Advisory Committee

w

7:00 pm, 3rd Thursdays Williams Farm Recreation Center

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Real Estate Corner Jean Bowman

The internet has had a huge impact on the real estate market when buying or selling a home. Today, buyers have access to countless home improvement and decorating websites and videos that showcase beautifully appointed homes. This can influence their expectations when searching for their "dream" home.

Photography also plays an important role in selling your home, as well as shaping a buyers' first impression. Online listings often feature homes with custom cabinets, quartz or marble countertops, high-end appliances, updated luxury flooring, and professionally staged interiors. These "perfect" images set a high standard for buyers. Given the rising costs of renovations - particularly for kitchens, bathrooms, and room additions, homes that are already updated tend to sell more quickly, and at a higher sales price. This is also why new construction is so appealing to many buyers.

However, most homes are not perfect and often show normal signs of wear and tear - that's just reality. While sellers may not be able to meet all expectations that buyers have, they can ensure their home is in the best possible condition and priced appropriately based on current market conditions.

Source (REIN) Real Estate Information Network

Jean Bowman Bowman Realty Licensed in Virginia









Homes for Sale and Sold in our Neighborhoods Since August 2025



LAKE SMITH TERRACE

For Sale

4712 White House Lane 4660 Copperfield Rd 1040 Patrick Henry Way

Sold

1100 Ewell Rd 4628 Copperfield Rd

HAYGOOD POINT

For Sale

4712 Crossborough Rd

GOVERNOR SQUARE

For Sale

904 Ewell Rd



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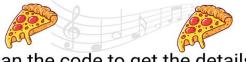
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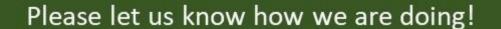
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Have a Seat on Us! Debbi Babashanian, President Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club

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The Tidewater District Garden Clubs made this a featured project during the 2023-2025 term. Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club embraced this challenge and earned not one, but two benches for our efforts!!!

Our garden club maintains a pollinator garden, among others, in the Haygood Point Park in conjunction with the City of Virginia Beach. Both of our benches are installed in our park for visitors to enjoy.

If you are in the "neighborhood" stop by and "have a seat on us!"

Pictured is one of our two benches in the Haygood Point Park and the plaque information recently applied.



Have a seat on us!

Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club June 2025



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