

# LARKSPUR

## CIVIC LEAGUE -

October 2024



### A Message from Civic League President Lindsay Johnson:



Did you miss out on all the fun times in Larkspur this summer? We hope not! From poolside days to neighborhood socials, this past season was packed with unforgettable moments. But guess what? Just because summer is winding down doesn't mean the fun stops here. As we prepare for the cooler months, the Larkspur Swim & Racquet Club (LSRC) has plenty of exciting fall activities planned.

Remember, Larkspur is more than just a place to live—it's a community. And the Larkspur Civic League plays a huge part in keeping that community spirit alive. If you're not a member yet, now is the perfect time to join. For just \$25 a year, you can make a difference. Your membership helps ensure we all have a voice in shaping our neighborhood. Whether it's improving public spaces or organizing events, every contribution counts. When we come together, even the biggest projects become manageable.

Did you know that LSRC celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer? It's been the heartbeat of our community for decades, hosting events, providing a great space for families, and offering recreation for all. The Civic League owns this vital property and leases it to the pool, allowing it to continue being the hub of activity in Larkspur.

So, what can you do now? It's simple—**join the Civic League!** Your involvement, no matter how small, helps us make Larkspur even greater. Let's work together to keep our neighborhood thriving.

Lindsay Johnson  
Civic League President  
757-582-3705  
[ericlindsayjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:ericlindsayjohnson@gmail.com)



## Questions? Concerns? Ideas?



Have a question, concern or idea about the Larkspur Neighborhood? Let us know so we can bring it up for consideration at our upcoming board meeting on October 6th! Our current agenda includes the following items:

- Revisiting sidewalk petition on Edwin Drive
- Landscaping at the entrances to the neighborhood
- Painting the brick columns on the Larkspur entry signs
- Creating and distributing membership mailers for 2025

Send your thoughts, ideas and/or questions [here](#)!

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## Keeping Larkspur Beautiful: The Importance of Yard Maintenance



A well-maintained yard helps create a positive impression for the entire neighborhood. In Larkspur, we take pride in the beauty of our community, and each homeowner plays a key role in maintaining that charm. With fall just around the corner, now is the perfect time to focus on yard maintenance to ensure that your outdoor space is ready for the cooler months. Here are a few tips to keep your yard looking its best:

**Leaf Control:** As leaves start to fall, regular raking will help your lawn breathe, and help to prevent mold or dead patches from forming. A clear yard not only looks neat, but it also promotes healthier grass for the next growing season.

**Prune Trees and Shrubs:** Cutting back overgrown branches and dead limbs helps your trees and shrubs thrive, while giving your yard a more polished look. Well-maintained trees are also safer during strong winds or storms.

**Freshen Up Your Mulch:** Fall is a great time to replenish mulch in your garden beds. Not only does it give a clean, finished appearance, but it also helps retain moisture and insulates roots during the cooler months.

**Lawn Care:** Keep your lawn trimmed and edged to prevent weeds from spreading. Consider fertilizing your grass in early fall to promote strong roots before winter, setting the stage for a lush, green yard next spring.

**Weed Prevention:** Stay proactive by removing weeds regularly. A yard free of weeds looks clean and prevents them from spreading to your neighbors' lawns.

**Holiday Decorations:** As the festive season approaches, we all enjoy seeing seasonal decorations brighten up the neighborhood. However, let's remember to take them down after the holiday passes to keep our community looking tidy and well-kept. Timely removal of decorations keeps your home looking fresh and

prevents unnecessary clutter in the yard.

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When each of us commits to maintaining our yards, we enhance the overall appeal of Larkspur. A beautiful, well-kept neighborhood makes a lasting impression on visitors and raises the value of our homes; in addition, it fosters a sense of pride and encourages others to follow suit.

Let's continue to make Larkspur a place we're all proud to call home!

# Fall Festival!

The Larkspur Civic League, in conjunction with the Larkspur Swim & Racquet Club, invites you and your family to the upcoming Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19th!

Join us as we gather together to enjoy the crisp autumn air, delicious treats, and fun activities for all. It will be a wonderful time to meet with LSRC and Civic League members, as we all take time to relax and create lasting memories.

## What's in store:

**Campfire & S'mores:** Cozy up by the fire and indulge in some classic s'mores treats. The LSRC is providing the fire & sweets!

**Family Friendly Competition:** Bring your competitive spirit and have some fun with cornhole and other games for all ages on the lawn.

**Chili & Chowder Cook-Off:** Got a secret family recipe? Bring your best chili or chowder to compete for bragging rights! We will have tables set up inside the clubhouse for crockpots. Please sign up to bring an item to share so we can plan accordingly!

**Canned Food Drive:** While shopping for your chili or chowder recipe, please consider bringing canned goods to support local families in need. We will have a donation bin available during the event.

**Arts and Crafts for kids:** Let your little ones get creative while you sample the chili and chowder submissions in the clubhouse!

For those of you who are not tempted by chili or chowder, we'll also have hamburgers and hot dogs available, **though we will need some adult volunteers to man the grills**). Picnic tables will be set up on the front lawn, but please feel free to bring camping chairs, too, especially if you plan to sit around the firepits (don't forget the bug spray, if you choose this option). Finally, please know that you are welcome to bring adult beverages, and we will even have coolers with ice on hand to help keep them cool. Be sure to sign up ahead of time by clicking [this link](#) so we can plan accordingly!



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# LSRC FALL FESTIVAL.

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# American Red Cross Blood Drive at the LSRC

The LSRC is hosting a blood drive on Friday October 4th. If you are able to sign up and donate, please visit the Red Cross website [here](https://www.redcross.org) and search "LSRC" to sign up for your time slot.



## Treasurer's Report



It's hard to believe summer is over and fall has arrived. It has been a quick summer, and this year seems like it is flying by. It's hard to believe 2025 is right around the corner! And yes, it's that time of year again: DUES!! If you paid your \$25.00 dues this year, we greatly appreciate it. If you would like to pay your dues early for next year, please do so by clicking on [this link](#), or by mailing your \$25.00 check to Jody Korman, Larkspur Civic League, 704 Southleaf Dr., Va Beach, VA 23462. Either way, please join the Larkspur Civic League, as every membership helps and counts!!

As of September 19th, our CD is worth \$5,726.85, and our checking account balance is now \$9,986.02. Several months back, we gave \$5,000.00 to Larkspur Swim and Racquet Club to help them pave their parking lot, a project that has needed doing for a long time, and one which will enhance the overall beauty of our neighborhood.

Thanks for being a part of such a great neighborhood; until next time! Now off to rake the falling leaves!

Jody Korman, Treasurer

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# Join Us!



Did you know that we have over 700 homes in Larkspur, but fewer than 50 Civic League members? With this in mind, let's make it a goal this season to attract new members into our fold, and to find opportunities to gather and engage with one another so that we can grow our Larkspur civic community into an even stronger and more vibrant neighborhood association than it already is!

The Larkspur Swim and Racquet Club has graciously invited Civic League members to join in on any LSRC social events and/or happenings this fall, so keep your eyes open for announcements in the coming weeks. That's right, it's time to start preparing your fire pit and s'mores skills, breaking out the pumpkin spice, and cheering for your favorite football team, because it's going to be an awesome autumn here in Larkspur!

Remember, a Civic League membership is more than just a monetary donation, it's also a gateway into meaningful relationships with friends, neighbors and local leaders here in Virginia Beach. As most of you already know, grassroots organizations such as the Larkspur Civic League are the backbone of any municipal government.

Of course, we will also put your money to good use! Your \$25.00 donation helps us with things like creating mailers that go out to the entire neighborhood, maintaining an up-to-date website, and keeping the common entrances to Larkspur looking neat, clean and classy.

Thanks for being a part of our community!

Eric Johnson  
Larkspur Civic League Membership



## Civic League Membership

For a small \$25 donation per year to our Civic League you can enjoy a quarterly newsletter, advocacy, and Civic League picnic. Help us get to 100% membership in the neighborhood!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)**



The Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO) is currently focused on several key issues that impact local neighborhoods and the broader community. Here are the top five concerns currently facing the VBCCO:

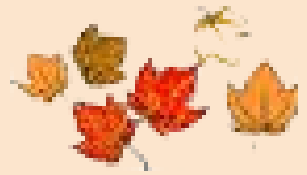
1. **Land-Use and Development:** One of the most significant concerns is the development and use of land in Virginia Beach. The VBCCO has launched initiatives like "Conversations with the City" to address potential conflicts between city officials and community interests in the planning process. This dialogue helps ensure that development plans align with residents' needs and preserve the quality of life in neighborhoods.
2. **Affordable Housing:** Housing affordability is a pressing issue, with the VBCCO working alongside the city to address the shortage of affordable housing options. Civic organizations have raised concerns about the lack of housing for low and moderate-income residents, which is a focus area for the organization.
3. **Stormwater Management:** As Virginia Beach deals with the effects of climate change, stormwater management remains a critical topic. The city has been making efforts to improve infrastructure, but concerns remain about how effectively these measures address flooding and protect homes from water damage.
4. **Public Safety and Crime Prevention:** Ensuring public safety is a priority for the VBCCO. The council works with city officials and local law enforcement to address crime and safety concerns, particularly in preventing crime and fostering community trust in policing efforts.
5. **Community Representation:** The VBCCO serves as a vital link between civic organizations and the city government, ensuring that residents' voices are heard in local decision-making. Issues related to transparency, the inclusion of community input in city planning, and increasing civic engagement are central to their mission.

These key areas highlight the VBCCO's role in advocating for stronger, safer, and more connected communities across Virginia Beach. They continue to facilitate discussions and collaborate with the city to create solutions that benefit the entire community. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Mitnick (757)651-8115 [wmitnick@aol.com](mailto:wmitnick@aol.com), or Mike Anderson (757)585-5695 for more information.





## Larkspur Garden Club News



It's Fall Y'All!

As summer winds down, it's time to ready your lawn and garden for the autumn season. In preparation for all lawn care and gardening, there are a variety of tasks to complete before summer ends to keep your yard/garden healthy and ready when Spring 2025 arrives. These helpful tips are brought to you by the Larkspur Garden Club.

Continue watering and mowing the lawn. Watering your lawn in the fall helps it recover from the stress of summer heat, sun exposure and foot traffic, and strengthens the grass to better resist the harsh winter conditions ahead. Prepare to mow your lawn into the fall season — grass still grows in autumn before going dormant for the winter.

Control broadleaf weeds, diseases and pests. Late summer and fall are ideal times to deal with broadleaf weeds including dandelions, clover and ground ivy. Pulling the weeds manually can work if the growth is limited, while more extensive growth calls for weed-and-feed treatment or weed killer. Get rid of any other diseased foliage or pest-ridden plants, too; otherwise, you may be left with a new outbreak once spring comes around.

Overseed the lawn. Overseeding involves planting grass seed directly into existing turf to fill in bare spots and increase turf density. Late summer or early fall is the optimal time to plant grass seed, when the soil retains enough heat for germination and weed growth decreases. Stop applying fertilizer or weed control for about a month before overseeding, since both processes can make it difficult for new seed to take hold.

Mulch garden beds. Adding mulch to your plants in late summer can improve moisture retention and help limit weed growth. The best time to mulch is right after rain or just after watering.

Prune and trim plants. Deadheading plants that have become overgrown by the end of the summer leaves your garden looking refreshed, prevents plants from exceeding their allotted space and encourages future growth. Cut dead or dying branches and spent flower stalks, and trim brown or wilted foliage. You can use sharp scissors for soft stems, pruning shears for thicker stems, and a string trimmer for tree branches.

Harvest fruits and vegetables; potentially plant more. Certain edible plants including tomatoes, winter squash, pumpkins and melons are ready for harvesting in late summer. You can still plant a variety of crops that will come to harvest before the frost sets in, including quick maturing lettuce, beets, carrots, peas, beans and spinach. Make sure to add compost to the soil before planting new crops.

Divide perennials. Dividing mature perennials increases the number of plants in your garden. The process involves digging up a substantial plant and splitting it into smaller individual plants, complete with roots, stems and leaves. In general, perennials should be divided in the season opposite to when they flower. Plants that bloom in spring and early summer can be split in late summer or early fall.

Replace summer annuals, collect seeds and bulbs. Dig up spent summer annuals, roots and all. Collect their seeds and bulbs, then store them in a cool, dry place for planting next year. Mid to late August is the best time for planting all flowers such as hydrangeas, dahlias, zinnias and petunias.

The members of the Garden Club want to remind you that Yard-of-the-Month judging continues thru November and then we will have our Holiday judging in the month of December.

The Larkspur Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month (Sept-Nov and Jan-May) from 9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. in the LSRC Clubhouse. If you're interested in attending a meeting or joining the garden club we welcome you!

For more information about an upcoming meeting please contact Mary at (757) 407-6211.

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### **Yard of the Month Winners!**

#### July 2024

Miriam Meeker  
641 Green Valley Drive

#### August 2024

Edith Lyte  
656 Sam Snead Lane

#### September 2024

Cary and Elizabeth Savage  
4604 Player Lane

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated; it's great to see Larkspur looking so good!

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For those interested in participating in *Yard-of-the-Month*, here is what the judges will be looking for. Good luck to all!

- General Appearance: Grass mowed and edged, weed free, green with no brown grass
- Beds cleaned and edged
- Walks, driveways, and curbs edged and swept
- Shrubs neatly trimmed and pruned
- Seasonal colors (flowers)
- General neatness: Garbage cans out of sight; no toys, bikes etc. on front lawn; hoses rolled up; air conditioners hidden by shrubs; no boat or R.V. in the driveway (those items have to be hidden behind a fence).
- The front lawn has a discernable, intentionally balanced landscape design
- House and property must be in good order and upkeep

***The same judging criteria is used each month, but the judges change monthly and remain anonymous.***

The LGC encourages residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do a superior job in maintaining their yards in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of the entire community, contributing to a neighborhood we can all be proud of!



# LARKSPUR

- SWIM & RACQUET -

During our annual meeting on August 18th, the LSRC announced that membership rates for the 2024-2025 season will be increasing. This adjustment is necessary to keep pace with rising expenses the pool continues to face. This is the LSRC's first price increase in over four years, so please know that the board carefully considered this decision before approving it. The new rates are as follows:

|        | Monthly | Yearly   |
|--------|---------|----------|
| Single | \$22.50 | \$270.00 |
| Couple | \$33.75 | \$405.00 |
| Family | \$45.00 | \$540.00 |

**Exciting news about our Monthly Plans!** Open enrollment for the monthly payment plan is **now available** and will remain open until October 31, 2024. If you wish to join the monthly plan, you can sign up during September at no additional cost. If you sign up in October, you will only need to pay your first month's dues. Please note that enrollment in these cost-effective plans will close after October, after which only the Full Payment option will be available.

For those already enrolled in a monthly plan, the new rates will automatically take effect in October. If, for any reason, you would like to cancel your membership plan, please reach out to Delvin Peek at [dpeek@me.com](mailto:dpeek@me.com). Also, please keep in mind that clubhouse rentals are available for events throughout the year; for more information head over to the LSRC website [here](#), send an email to [info@larkspurswim.com](mailto:info@larkspurswim.com), or call (757) 219-275.



Our beloved Larkspur Lasers swim team lasered through another successful season with the flag held high! Not only did our swimmers **crush it** at every event, they consistently displayed GREAT sportsmanship and carried away the VBSL 2024 Marlin Division Champion award! **We are so PROUD! Way to go LASERS!**

For information about registering your kid as a future Laser, head over to the team website [here](#)! And, believe it or not, spring sign-up information should be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

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# LARKSPUR

- SWIM & RACQUET -

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Secretary- Kim Bedinger

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To contact Board or Committee Members, please email [larkspurvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:larkspurvirginia@gmail.com) or call (757) 219-2089

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## Save the Dates!

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|               |                                                      |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| October 19th  | Fall Festival                                        |
| November 30   | Holiday Brunch with LSRC (tentative, so stay tuned!) |
| December 12th | Pictures with Santa                                  |

\*\*\* Yard of the Month Judging will take place during the last few days of each month.



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