

# Newcomers and Old Friends



L A K E M O N T I C E L L O

## November 2025

### Board Members

Denise Maier, President

Diane Allen, Vice President

Jean Shore, Secretary

Jennifer Aldag, Treasurer

Patty Marcinkowski, Activities Coordinator

Jeanne Lynch, Hospitality Coordinator

lmofofboard@gmail.com

### Membership and Money Matters

Current Balance (as of 11/02):

\$6172.06

Current Paid Members: 340

October meeting attendance: 68

### Facebook

"Newcomers and Old Friends Of Lake Monticello"

Please Note: Our FB page is limited to posts from the board and to pictures and posts about small group activities. We encourage small group leaders to post their activities/information/photos regularly to share the fun we are having!

We are at a record number of users to our page. You can join any time after dues are paid. Thank you to our small group members and leaders for continuing to post pictures of your activities.

### \*\*\*November Meeting\*\*\*

Sunday, November 16

3:30-5:00 pm

### Please join us (change of location):

At the Maple Room at the Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue Building.

Fire Chief Richie Constantino will be our presenter with a presentation on "Fire Dangers in Residential Garages. We will also be joined by Bill Brent, the Executive director of the Central Virginia Red Cross, that will give us a presentation on Disaster Preparedness entitled "Be Red Cross Ready". Chief Richie will provide a tour of the firehouse at the end of the meeting for anyone that would like to attend.

### Fall Food Drive

We will be collecting food donations for the Fluvanna Food Pantry at this meeting. Below is the generic list of needed ingredients.

Canned fruit and vegetables, nut butters, canned tuna/chicken, cereal, canned or dry beans, pasta, rice, oatmeal, mac and cheese, soups, stews, chilis, pasta sauce, cooking oil, dried herbs, spices, toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, toothbrushes, baby formula, diapers, baby food.

Please read further in the newsletter for holiday-specific food items also needed.

We will have a raffle for donations, fall trivia and be giving out door prizes. We hope you can join us for a fun and informative meeting!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

**Many thanks to** Janet Girton, Lynn Kennedy, Carolyn Stenger, Sharon McLaughlin and Rita Supernaw for their help at the October meeting with the sign in table, greeting members, and cleaning up! We are always thankful for friends and members that pitch in to help, especially on a busy weekend with many other competing events!

### **A little housekeeping:**

Please remember that participation in open active small groups requires members to stay active by paying their \$10 dues each year. Our membership runs 350-450 each year, but we have over 700 in active small groups. Many are not renewing their membership each year. Please consider paying your dues soon!

Small groups without a leader will be kept open for a few months while seeking a new leader. In January, any group without a leader will be closed for the remainder of the year.

If you signed up for a group without a leader, please consider leading/facilitating that group. The board has helpful hints to help you, can provide a mentor to help you get started, and will work with you for a successful start. Be brave! You have support!

If you no longer wish to be part of a small group, please do not ignore emails, but respond to the leader that you no longer wish to be included. This will enable leaders to remove you from their rolls and make room for others! We encourage leaders to remove those that have not responded in more than 6 months.

**Join Us!** Anytime throughout the year. We are open to any resident of LMOA.

Sign up at monthly meetings or mail a check made out to LMNOF for \$10 per person to:

Jennifer Aldag, Treasurer  
38 Riverside Drive  
Palmyra, VA 22963

Please include name, address, email address, and phone numbers for each person so Jennifer can include you on our active roster. She will send you a confirmation of your payment by email.

Our roster is private (only accessible by the Board and not shared outside of our group).

Come join the fun!

## **Schedule of Activities/Meetings At Ashlawn Clubhouse unless stated 3:30-5:00 (3:30 social, 4:00 meeting time)**

**September 21**

**Annual Activities Sign-Up Meeting**

**\*\*\*\*October 19\*\*\*\***

**Aqua Presentation by Steve Smith  
“How Working Together/We Can All Save Money”**

**\*\*\*\*November 16\*\*\*\***

**Fire Dangers/Disaster Preparedness  
Maple Room of LMVFR Building  
Fall Trivia/Door Prizes  
Raffle prizes for donations**

**December**

**Break – Happy Holidays**

**January 11**

**Program TBD**

**February 1**

**Music Bingo with Sara Davenport**

**March 15**

**Program TBD**

**April**

**Break to enjoy holidays**

**May 17**

**Program TBD**

**June 7**

**End of Year Party  
60's Hippie Theme  
Hardware Hills Vineyard  
More details to come**

We would love to hear from our membership on any topics and/or presenters you all might like to experience. Please send an email to the board email at [lmnofboard@gmail.com](mailto:lmnofboard@gmail.com) with ideas!

Seriously, send ideas!

**Recap of Steve Smith's October Presentation:  
AQUA: How Working Together/We Can All Save Money**

**Interesting Facts**

**Aqua removes approximately 1 million gallons of water daily from the Rivanna River. It clarifies and returns approximately 1 million gallons of water daily to the Rivanna. The impact on the river is minimal.**

**Aqua services roughly 14,000 customers at approximately 75 gallons per person daily usage. This is the equivalent of 125 tanker trucks of water daily.**

**In addition to monthly hook up fees, customers pay 1 penny for every 10 gallons of water usage, and 2 cents for each gallon of sewer usage, making sewage twice the cost. And this is where we can save \$\$.**

**Aqua services 50+ lift stations and over 900 grinder pumps in the community. Lift stations pumps can cost \$50-\$100K to replace and smaller grinder pumps can cost from \$5-\$10k to replace.**

**Prior to 2024 AQUA worked on a Break / Fix Model and spent most of their time FIXING things that had BROKEN... In 2024 a Formal Scheduled Maintenance Program began, and results were nearly instant. In 2024 there were NO Large Sewage Overflows that polluted our Lake. In 2023, there were 6 leaks that released e coli into our lake, causing partial closures.**

**The pumps at the water facility runs 12 hours a day. They have capacity to pump twice as much as they are pumping. Additional water storage tanks are being built to help with better water pressure.**

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**To SAVE MONEY we can ALL watch what goes down our pipes and help AQUA reduce the costs of blockages and pump failures.**

**PLEASE !!! IN ORDER TO SAVE \$\$:**

**No "FOG" (Fats / Oils & Grease)**

**No Wipes / No Golf Balls / No Stuffed Animals / No Sanitary Products / No Insulin Syringes / No Paper Other Than Toilet Paper should go down your pipes**

**FLUSHABLE WIPES ARE NOT FLUSHABLE! THEY ARE THE BIGGEST CLOG IN THE SYSTEM! PLEASE PUT THEM IN THE TRASH CAN!**

**Trash found in the pipes must be put into drying platforms at the water treatment facility to dry out in the sun, be loaded onto trucks and shipped to landfills. This is a large part of what contributes to the bad smell surrounding the facility and can be avoided by not putting foreign items down the drain.**

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**Steve showed a video of a clean out of a pump station. The video took 1 year to get AQUA corporate to agree to show to the public. It was a rather disgusting job and showed how they must pull out those things clogging the station and cut it up to get it to go through the pipes.**

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**AQUA has requested another large price increase. During their last increase, Lake Monticello residents registered over 2,800 comments to the State Corporation Commission, the largest they had ever seen. The working group is hoping for 5,000 comments for the most recent increase request.**

**This Link goes directly to the SCC Website to see activity on the AQUA Rate Case (comments are compiled and post every day)... about 50 comments to date**

[Case Documents | SCC DocketSearch](#)

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**This Link goes directly to the SCC Website to make a Comment on Aqua's Service or The Rate Increase. Please go here and make comments against the rate increase.**

[Virginia SCC - Cases: Application of Aqua Virginia, Inc. for an increase in rates](#)

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**Want to learn more?**

**The Community Development Committee meets every month / at 4:00PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
The LMOA/AQUA Water Work Group meets every other month / at 10:00AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (11/12 next meeting).  
Visitors and encouraged and welcome!**

## **Food Items Needed for the Fluvanna Food Pantry for November meeting**

This food drive will concentrate on items to prepare Thanksgiving meals for needy families. Everyone bringing food items will receive a ticket for a chance at three raffle tickets following meeting.

**Please bring non-perishable, shelf stable items such as:**

**Packages of stuffing mixes, regular and cornbread stuffing**

**Canned or powdered gravy mixes**

**Packages of Instant Potatoes**

**Chicken Broth for making stuffing**

**Cans of Green Beans/Corn/Carrots**

**Cookie Mixes/Cake Mixes/Brownie Mixes**

**Canned Cranberry Sauce**

**Boxes of Cornbread Mix**

Newcomers and Old Friends is making a \$300 donation to buy fresh protein items (poultry, pork, beef). The Fluvanna Food Pantry is experiencing a great need at the current time and needs food donations, monetary donations, and volunteers.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our less fortunate neighbors during the holidays!!!

## **Activity Corner**

**Thank you to new leaders that have volunteered to start/lead a small group this year so far:**

American Sign Language - MJ Lightbody

Book Club #2 - Jayne Donohue

Bunco - Jan Williams

Cribbage/Double Deck Pinochle/Wine Club 9 - Mike Shurack

Day Trippers 2/Playing with Joy - Robyn Jacobs

Diamond Painting - Priscilla Scherrah

Easy Hiking - Susan Hannifan/Tina Siebold

Fun with Food 9 - Jeff Bruskin

Mens Poker - Matt Schafer

Neighborhood Walking - Kat Roth

Singles Group - Melissa Jordan

Sip and Savor 8 - Sharon McLaughlin

Spanish Conversation - John Wilkinson

The Board is appreciative of all the new leaders (many new to the neighborhood) for stepping up with leadership and ideas for new small groups. Please contact the Board if you need help! We are here to help.

**The following groups need leaders:** Birdwatching #2, Book Club 8, Community Services, History Group 16, Let's Go to the Movies, Out to Lunch Bunch #5, Singles Club, Theater Goers #2. If you are currently a member of one of these clubs or you recently signed up to join, please consider leading one of these clubs. They will remain open until January and then will be closed for the remainder of the year.

We would like to recognize and sincerely thank long-time leaders for their efforts running their small groups over many years! **Thank you to Tim and Robyn Consroe for 11 years of leading Easy Hiking and to Joanne Mein for her many years leading Community Services Group.** These leaders stepped down this year and will be enjoying much deserved time off. Our organization has been enriched immensely from your time and commitment to making your small groups a success! Enjoy your new free time and please do not be strangers at our monthly meetings. We still hope to see you often!

**Please contact Patty Marcinkowski** with any new ideas for small groups, for assistance with your current groups, or for any type of help or guidance with your group at the board email at [lmnofboard@gmail.com](mailto:lmnofboard@gmail.com)!

## Photos to Share

Please send or post (to FB page) photos of your small groups having fun to share with the group!



Fun with Food 6 and Sip and Savor 2B joined forces at Pat & Carolyn Stenger's beautiful house on the lake for a "Fabulous Fall Feast". Delicious food, great friends and interesting conversation abounded!

Mark Vyros, Scott Mein and Larry Fawkes from the Sports Club took in a UVA baseball game together! Go Hoos!





The Photography Group enjoyed lunch and a field trip to a camera museum in Staunton. It was very informative.



Fun with Food enjoyed an Octoberfest get together at the home of Bernie Ammons complete with:

- Sauerbraten
- German Red Cabbage
- German Beers
- Boiled Potatoes
- Sauerkraut
- Brats with apples, onions, raisins
- Kugel
- Black Forest Cupcakes
- Apple Crumble Cake
- Pretzel Bites

And Alfred in Lederhosen!





Wine Club #9 held their inaugural meeting at Hardware Hills Winery in Scottsville. Owners Rob and Andrea Nickels opened for them on a day they are normally closed. What a great turnout! Thank you to Mike and Kim Shurack for volunteering to lead this group! We detect lots of fun and lots of day drinking in the future for these folks!

What is your small group doing? Post pictures to Facebook page or email to the board email and we will get them posted for you! There's lots of fun and merriment happening out there! Let's share what we are doing. It gives other groups ideas.