

Bulletin

Connecting Community, Preserving Paradise

(252) 586-6577

P O Box 656, Henrico, NC 27842

% Website: LGAncva.com % Facebook: facebook.com/LGA.nc.va % Email: execdir@lgancva.com %

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Lake Environment



An Announcement from Dominion Energy

For questions/comments related to lake levels, operations, or general questions about Lake Gaston or Roanoke Rapids Lake, please

email: lakeinfo@dominionenergy.com

A couple of items related to the account ...

- 1. As would be expected, this is not to be used for emergencies.
- 2. The account will be checked at least weekly and emails will be forwarded to the proper person for reply.
- 3. For Information related to Shoreline Management Activities such as construction and use of piers, docks, boat slips, and boathouses; shoreline erosion control and vegetation management, please visit Lake Gaston Roanoke Rapids Lake Permitting | Dominion Energy for the Construction and Use Procedures. For questions related to Shoreline Management and Mileage Buoys, please call Josh Simpson the Reservoir Program Manager, at 252-410-6306
- 4. For issues related to boating safety and regulations:
 - In North Carolina, WRC enforcement officers are the point of contact. If there is an urgent concern about safety or violations, please call the enforcement hotline at 800-662-7137 and the dispatch center will contact the nearest officer on duty.

General complaints can be directed to the main line at 919-707-0010.

- In Virginia, VA Conservation Police Officers (CPO's) enforce boating safety laws. Violations in progress should be reported to the Wildlife Crime Line at 1-800-237-5712
 - or <u>WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov</u> General complaints can be directed to the main line at 804-367-1000
 - or https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/contact/



President's Corner...





Are You a Lake Gaston Stakeholder?

Do you have an interest in the health of Lake Gaston? The water quality? The Lake Gaston Community? Do you want to see strong, healthy businesses and a vibrant cultural arts community around Lake Gaston?

If you answer yes to any or all of these questions, you are a Lake Gaston Stakeholder.

Recently, the Lake Gaston Association partnered with the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council to hold a Stakeholders' Forum. This group has met off and on for the last 20 years to discuss the environmental health of the Lake. Pete Deschenes headed this group with a focus on Aquatic Weed Management. Early on there was much controversy about this process from homeowners, sport fishermen, and duck hunters -- all with a stake in the health of the lake.

We reached out to 25 different organizations, including county governments, state agencies, and interested parties, to join us and determine the future of this group. There was agreement that the process of providing input from all interested parties into the management of the lake has value.

With Pete's move to be closer to family, we realize that we must "put a stake in it" and move this group forward with a renewed mission: to keep the stakeholder input process alive and continue to build our lake community. That is just one way your association is building relationships and creating a strong lake community.

Jeff Zimmer
President
President@LGAncva.com

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 6:00 p.m. LGA Monthly Membership Meeting

at the Below Deck Sports Bar (WatersView Restaurant – downstairs)

The deadline to RSVP and pay was March 30th, however, this presentation will be recorded and posted to the LGA's YouTube Channel.



Lake Environment Committee...



Don't Dump Leaves and Lawn Debris in Lake Gaston Residents and landscape contractors are reminded not to dispose of leaves, lawn clippings, and other organic material in Lake Gaston.

As property owners around Lake Gaston begin the spring ritual of cleaning up their property, they should remember that disposing of the waste material into Lake Gaston is the wrong thing to do. Whether you do the work yourself or hire a contractor to do the work for you, please don't dump the material or allow your contractor to dump the material into the lake. It may seem like an easy solution to dump it in the lake and walk away. Out of sight and out of mind as the saying goes, but let's quickly review several reasons why it's bad for the lake environment, bad for recreational activities on the lake, and bad for you as property owners. The decomposition of organic material, such as leaves, lawn clippings, and other landscape debris, will increase the nutrient loading in the lake, likely leading to undesirable results such as:

- Increased growth of vegetation along your shoreline and in the lake. Excessive vegetation in the lake can impact your ability to swim, boat, and otherwise enjoy Lake Gaston.
- Potential for increased noxious algae and invasive weeds such as Lyngbya and Hydrilla to occur in the water around your boathouse and swimming areas.
- Increase the potential for Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) in Lake Gaston. Some HABs can be toxic to wildlife, pets, and even humans.
- Increased muck along your shoreline. Decaying organic material, as it builds up, can eventually increase nasty muck on the bottom of your shoreline and swimming area.
- Reduced dissolved oxygen in the lake as the organic material decomposes. Without adequate levels of oxygen in the water, many desirable fish and other species cannot survive.
- Increased odors from vegetation decomposition. As organic material decays and oxygen levels are depleted, the decomposition can "go anaerobic" which releases hydrogen sulfide and other smelly volatile organic compounds.
- Other negative impacts to water quality. Remember that Lake Gaston is a drinking water source for many residents.

We all know that leaves and other organic materials enter the lake, such as wind-blown leaves, and the lake ecosystem can handle this limited amount of nutrients via natural processes.

But when lake residents add additional organic material to the water, the natural balance of nutrients in the lake is thrown out of balance.

Be a good steward and protect the primary reason why we choose to live here. No dumping in Lake Gaston!

John Franz
Lake Environment Committee Chair
Committees@LGAncva.com

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m. Monthly Membership Meeting

at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church: 2378 Eaton Ferry Rd, Littleton

Topic: "Meet Our Community Partners"

Speakers TBA

Coffee and pastries from Lake Gaston Coffee Company will be provided.

This meeting is open to the public, and LGA membership is not required. For more information, please email us at execdir@lgancva.com or call (252) 586-6577.



Membership & Volunteer Engagement Committee...

"Connecting Community, Preserving Paradise"

Almost every organization or business has a tag line to help identify a brand, purpose, or mission. "Just Do It", "Where's the Beef", "Can you hear me now", "What's in your wallet", "Fly the Friendly Skies", "Snap, Crackle, Pop". I think you get the point. Pretty sure all of them will ring a bell for you, and that you could easily name the associated company.

For over 35 years, the LGA has been "Your Voice at the Lake". That wasn't bad, as we attempted to represent the part-timers who didn't have a voice during local elections. The LGA strived to fill that role. We still do, but recently, we thought the time was right to expand our reach. Why do we live or play here? If you own lake property or visit this beautiful lake, you know why. A totally unscientific study found 99 out of 100 folks chose this area because of the lake. (Ok, I just made that up.)

During our recent reimagining of the LGA, the Board of Directors felt it was time to acknowledge why we have all chosen to come to this paradise and why it is important to preserve it for future generations. With every project and cause we support, the LGA's intent is to connect the lake community and preserve this paradise. Whether it is the quarterly roadside clean-up of the LGA's adopted roadway along Eaton Ferry Road, the vegetation survey along Lake Gaston's 350 miles

of shoreline, our annual free shred event, our support of the Quality Water Awareness Campaign (Q.W.A.C.), or the John 3:16 annual toy drive collection boxes the LGA places throughout the community -- all of these activities are intended to keep us connected, engaged, and preserve this paradise. We hope you approve of our new tag line. Expect to see it featured in all of our future marketing efforts.

One more thing -- Volunteer Engagement has become a priority. It's great to have over 2,100 households and 104 business members but just think of the possibilities of all we could accomplish if we had more volunteers to participate in the "hands-on" volunteer projects. Just think what we could accomplish together!

Thanks for reading and your support.

Brian Goldsworthy
Membership & Volunteer Engagement Chair
LGA Lifetime Member since 2015
Committees@LGAncva.com

Saturday, June 14, 2025 LGA Annual Membership Meeting

at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church: 2378 Eaton Ferry Road, Littleton

Topic: Responsible Wake Boating at Lake Gaston Speakers: Discussion Panel Participants TBA

Coffee and pastries from Lake Gaston Coffee Company will be provided.

This meeting is open to the public, and Lake Gaston Association membership is not required. For more information, please email us at execdir@lgancva.com or call (252) 586-6577.



Community & Gov't Relations Committee...











The Community & Government Relations Committee Needs Your HELP

The Community & Government Relations Committee (CGRC) is in need of your help. If you have ever wanted to get involved in local government, now is the time. The CGRC is actively looking for individuals who want to get to know their local government officials. It is the intent of this

committee to engage with all five local county governments and to be aware of any actions that may take place that affect the lake community, both positively and negatively.

We are looking for individuals who can give 1 to 1.5 hours a month to attend your county's monthly meeting. We also invite you to attend our monthly committee meeting to update us on any issues you learned about that might affect Lake Gaston. You do not need to have any experience in government relations for this position, you just need a desire to get involved and help your lake community thrive. If you think that this is something you would like to get involved with, please email me at bob.allan00@gmail.com.

Bob Allan

Community & Government Relations Chair

Committees@LGAncva.com

(Please include "Government Relations Committee" in the subject line of the email)





From the desk of the Executive Director...

It's hard not to notice the litter around the lake while out driving along the roads around Lake Gaston. If you would like to be part of the solution, please consider joining us for one of our roadside clean-up days. The LGA's adopted stretch of roadway is from the WatersView/Pointe Realty parking lot to the Food Lion shopping center. Our next clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th at 9:00 am. Safety vests, gloves, trash pickers, and trash bags will be provided. All you need to do is watch a 2-minute safety video required by NCDOT for all participants and sign a liability waiver. This month, the LGA is treating all participants to lunch at the Lake Gaston Coffee Company afterwards. To sign up, click on this link: volunteersignup.org/3YDQ7

And if you are not able to help on clean-up day, you can do your part every day to help prevent and clean up litter around the lake. You should always cover your load when taking trash to the dump, you could carry a trash bag with you when you go out for a walk, or you could keep a net in your boat to scoop up any trash you see when you're out on the water. We can all be part of the solution if we make a few small changes.

Tammy Clarke
Executive Director
execdir@lgancva.com
252-586-6577

LGA ~ Calendar of Events

Not able to attend the monthly membership meeting?

Watch videos of the meeting presentations on our YouTube Channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/@LakeGastonAssociation

April 2 - Monthly Membership Mtg - 6:00 p.m., Below Deck Sports Bar. Attendance by RSVP only.

April 15 - Community & Gov't Relations Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

April 16 – Lake Environment Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

April 17 - Membership & Volunteer Engagement Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

April 26 - Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up Day - 9:00 a.m. Click here to for details and to volunteer: volunteersignup.org/3YDQ7

April 30 - LGA Board Mtg - (8:30 - 11:00 a.m.) - LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

May 3 – Jack D Saunders Community Shred Event, 10:00 a.m., Roanoke-Wildwood VFD, 1948 River Road, Henrico

May 7 - Monthly Membership Mtg - 9:30 a.m., Lake Gaston Baptist Church: 2378 Eaton Ferry Rd, Littleton

May 15 - Membership & Volunteer Engagement Committee Mtg – (8:30-10 a.m.) Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

May 20 - Community & Gov't Relations Committee Mtg – (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

May 21 – Lake Environment Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

May 26 – Memorial Day Holiday

May 28 - LGA Board Mtg - (8:30 - 11:00 a.m.) - LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

June 14 - Annual Membership Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Lake Gaston Baptist Church: 2378 Eaton Ferry Rd, Littleton

June 17 - Community & Gov't Relations Committee Mtg – (8:30-10 a.m.) LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

June 18 – NO Lake Environment Committee Mtg

June 19 – Membership & Volunteer Engagement Committee Mtg - (8:30-10 a.m.) Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

June 25 - LGA Board Mtg - (8:30 - 11:00 a.m.) - LKG Chamber of Commerce: 2357 Eaton Ferry Rd

Thank you, LGA Business Members, for your support!

For more Business Member details, please visit our website at:

https://www.lgancva.com/lake-gaston-association-membership-application/business-member-directory.html

Business Member

A. M. Newsom Agency

Ace Hardware of Lake Gaston

Always In Bloom

Arthur & Nicholson DDS

Banzet, Thompson, Styers & May, PLLC

Blue Jay Bistro

Bragging Rooster Beer and Mead

Center for Energy Education

C-Line Graphics

Coldwell Banker Advantage-Susan L Gordon

Corbitt Hills Construction
Creekside Animal Hospital

Crenshaw & Haight Family Dentistry

Cygnet Enterprises, Inc.

Davis Body Shop Inc.

Deo Auto Repairs

Dominion Energy

<u>Dunlevy's Marine & Construction</u> Eaton Ferry Marina-Keel Marinas

ECU Health North Hospital
Edward Jones - Brad Smith
Family Dollar Store #10525
First Citizens Bank – Warrenton

Flawless Aesthetics

Fresh Faces

<u>Futrell Pharmacy of Littleton</u> George's of Warrenton

Getting' Sauced in the City

Gus's Diner

Halifax County Economic Development
Halifax Electric Membership Corporation

Helpful Hands and Hearts

Hockaday Funeral & Cremation Services

Inland Boat Company

Jennifer Allman, Pointe Realty

K-9 Cuts Pet Grooming

Kenneth Daniels Construction and Remodeling

Lake Gaston Awning

Lake Gaston Coffee Company

Lake Gaston Edge Realty - Linda Hedgepeth

Lake Gaston Fitness

Type of Business

Insurance

Hardware & Home Improvements

Florists
Dentists
Attorneys
Restaurants

Breweries/Distilleries/Wineries

General

Marketing/Graphics/Printing Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Builders & Developers

Veterinarian Dentists

Lake Treatment & Management Auto/Motorcycle Sales & Service Auto/Motorcycle Sales & Service

General

Builders & Developers Marina Sales & Service Hospitals & Urgent Care

Financial Advisors

Shopping Banks

Beauty Salons & Spas

Shopping

Pharmacies & Medical Supplies

Restaurants
Restaurants
Restaurants
General
Electricians

Nonprofit Organizations Funeral Homes & Services

Boat & PWC Sales, Service & Storage

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Pet Grooming & Services

Home Improvements & Repairs Home Improvements & Repairs

Coffee & Coffee Shops

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Gyms & Fitness

Lake Gaston HVAC **HVAC** Lake Gaston Marine Marina Sales & Service Lake Gaston Pizza & More Restaurants Lake Gaston Real Estate Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce General Lake Gaston Sign & Graphic Co. Marketing/Graphics/Printing Lake Gaston Supply Co. Building Products & Supplies Lake Realty LLC Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Lakeland Pier & Boathouse Co. Inc. Builders & Developers Lakeside Dog Boarding Pet Grooming & Services Lakeside Leisure at Oak Grove General Lakeside Lutheran Church Churches & Places of Worship Lakeside Signs & Engraving Marketing/Graphics/Printing Littleton Hardware Building Products & Supplies Liz Christensen, eXp Realty Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Lloyd's Decorating Center Home Improvements & Renovations Locorum Distillery Breweries/Distilleries/Wineries Lorraine Atkinson – Coldwell Banker Adv Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Luv'N'Flame Restaurants MacBride Excavation LLC Home Improvements & Renovations Main Street Mercantile Shopping More Than Just A Pet Cremations Funeral Homes & Services NAPA Southside Parts Co. Auto/Motorcycle Sales & Service Nationwide / OL Meek Insurance Agency Insurance Northstar Industries Home Improvements & Repairs Oleson Building Company, LLC Builders & Developers Once Upon a County Line Emporium Shopping Marina Sales & Service Overby Marine Sales & Service Pair's Management - Littleton Towne Center General Pea Hill Team - Lake Gaston Realtors & Real Estate Brokers PLM Lake & Land Management Corp Lake Treatment & Management Quality Design and Construction Home Improvements & Repairs Rest E-Z @ Shell Furniture, LLC Furniture Dealers & Repairs R.M. Robertson Electric Electricians Roanoke Porta-Johns General Roanoke Shores Tennis Club Tennis & Golf Clubs Roanoke Wildwood Volunteer Fire Dept Fire Departments & Rescue Squads Rosemont Vineyards and Winery Breweries/Distilleries/Wineries Saint Albans Episcopal Church Churches & Places of Worship Sherry Walker Moxley, CPA, PLLC Accountants Slayton & Clary Attorneys State Farm Insurance - Chris Canady, Agent Insurance Stonehouse Timber Lodge Lodging & Vacation Rentals Story Properties - Ed Roughton Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Story Properties - Tommy & Beth Story Realtors & Real Estate Brokers Subway – Lake Gaston Restaurants Tar Heel Tire Sales & Service Auto/Motorcycle Sales & Service

Museums & Theaters

The Acorn Center

The Boat Lift Store

Tiffany Dotti – Lake Homes Realty

TowBoatUS Lake Gaston

Tree Huggers Expert Tree Care

Trident Residential Solutions

Tri-Lake Concepts

Tri-Lakes Flooring LLC

Triple R Tree Service

VCU Health - CMH

Vincent's Retreat Center

Washburn's Marina

Waterfront Realty Lake Gaston

WatersView Restaurant

William T. Skinner, IV

Williams Custom Homes LLC

Boat & PWC Sales, Service & Storage

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Boat & PWC Sales, Service & Storage

Tree Service

General

Auto/Motorcycle Sales & Service

Home Improvements & Repairs

Tree Service

Hospitals & Urgent Care

General

Marina Sales & Service

Realtors & Real Estate Brokers

Restaurants

Attorneys

Builders & Developers

Thank you for being a Loyal Member of the LGA!

2025 Membership Goal: 3,000

Current Members: 2,152 (Households 2,048 / Businesses 104)



What the LGA does for our members...

We identify lake issues affecting our members and pursue a resolution with the responsible organization(s).

We do this by...

- working to conserve our lake's natural resources while protecting your recreational enjoyment by monitoring and controlling pollution, sedimentation, and invasive species, supporting research and best management practices that maintain Lake Gaston's water quality for all users.
- engaging with our local governments to inform and influence decision-making in your best interest.
- > supporting and promoting safety in our communities and on the water to encourage a safe environment.
- ▶ advocating and encouraging a clean, healthy, and desirable lifestyle along the roadsides and shorelines of beautiful Lake Gaston.
- ▶ informing and communicating on Lake Gaston issues via email advisories and quarterly Bulletins, emergency, weather, and water level alerts, open-door monthly meetings, website, social media, press releases, radio broadcasts, and public forums.

We accomplish this by building relationships and coordinating efforts with Dominion Energy, the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council, North Carolina and Virginia Wildlife Agencies, North Carolina State University, local Law Enforcement and Emergency Management, the Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, LKG 911 Community Task Force, and many others.