What's Happening With Lake Gaston Water Levels?

How lake levels are managed

Lake Gaston is in the middle of a complex system of lakes and waterways spanning two states.

At a top level, the primary purpose of Kerr Lake is flood control (other purposes include power generation and recreation). The primary purpose of Lake Gaston (LKG) and Roanoke Rapids (RR) Lake is power generation (other purposes include recreation and flood control). The US Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates Kerr dam and is responsible for flood control in the Roanoke River basin. Dominion Energy owns and operates LKG and RR dams.

The Corps decides how much water flows out of Kerr Dam, which then flows through LKG, RR and then downstream.

Dominion then schedules releases based on power generation needs. Per their license and laws, Dominion is required to keep Lake Gaston in the Normal range except during the Spring fish spawning time and during Flood Operations (see the details in the box on page 2), when they are allowed to exceed Normal level.

We go into Flood Operations when the Corps decides it has to release a lot of water from Kerr (20,000 cubic feet per second or more).

What we saw this year

Through much of this year the conditions were very dry, even officially in drought. During that time, LKG levels were usually in the normal range.

This fall, Mother Nature ramped up the rainfall, sending two hurricanes and some other significant rain events our way (and also way up river in the Roanoke River watershed). For example, in both September and October, we had seven times the average amount of water for this time of year flowing into Kerr Lake!

As a result, we have spent a lot of time officially in Flood Operations. Between 9/22 and 10/31, we were in Normal Operations just 8 days and in Flood Operations the remaining 32 days. During all that time in Flood Operations, Dominion was allowed to let LKG levels rise and yet there were less than a half dozen days that were above the normal range!

What it all means

This means that not only was Dominion managing the lake level to at or below the “Good Neighbor” policy target of 201.5’, but most of the time it was down in the Normal range! It means we avoided sustained high water levels that threaten the shoreline and docks.

It also means that we passed along warnings that lake levels could rise (they could have) and then it did not come to pass. I think we can agree it is better to be safe than sorry in such cases and be thankful the levels stayed lower.

Don Carson, Vice President
December 5, 2018 - LGA monthly meeting
9:30 a.m. at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church (1 mile north of Eaton Ferry Bridge on Hwy 903)

Topic:  Accomplishments of the Gaston KIPP GCP, the new Halifax KIPP, and Durham and KIPP ENC.
Speaker:  Tammie Sutton, Founder & Executive Director KIPP ENC Public Schools

Also: Got a lake-related issue or concern that the LGA should be working on? There will be time allotted on the agenda to present those concerns to the LGA Board. And, catch up with what the Committees are working on.

The meeting is open to the public, members and non-members alike so gather up your neighbors and come join the LGA for an informative meeting. For more information contact info@lakegastonassoc.com or call (252) 586-6577 or toll free 1-888-586-6577.

Water Levels On Lake Gaston Summary

• US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) decides how much water flows out of Kerr Dam into Gaston.
  • If Kerr is releasing 20,000 cubic feet per second (20K cfs) or more, we are in Flood Operations.
• Dominion Generation manages the water level of Lake Gaston. Per their license and laws they are required to keep Lake Gaston in the normal range (199’ -200’ above sea level) except:
  • During Spring fish spawning season (March 1st to mid-Jun), Dominion is allowed to have the Lake Gaston levels rise up to 201’.
  • During Flood Operations they are allowed to raise levels to 203’. As a “Good Neighbor,” Dominion tries to keep it at 201.5’ or lower.
  • Quasi-Run of the River (QRR) – New USACE river management process put in place in June of 2016.
    • Drains flood waters from Kerr at a much higher rate than the previous process = Lake Gaston spends less time in Flood Operations.

Staying current with Lake Gaston’s water level

Whether you are full or part-time at the lake we recommend that you have the following link to Dominion’s website as a ‘favorite’ on your computer or hand-held gizmo. Rest assured we will still send you water level alerts from Dominion when they occur but if you want to know on any given day what the water level is, then click on the link - https://www.dominionenergy.com/community/lakes-and-recreation/lake-gaston-water-levels

Wanted!
What does it take to be a Director?

• You are welcome to sit in on any of our committee meetings and decide what is best for you – look for the committee meeting grid in the Bulletin for when they meet.
• Join us the first Wednesday of each month for the LGA monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. (Lake Gaston Baptist Church, across from Subway), to see what is being done and what can be done.

Clarence Drumgoole, Nominating Chair  Contact him at Nominating@LakeGastonAssoc.com
Hats off to our many Fall Lake Survey volunteers for a job well done!!

The Lake Environment Committee and dedicated volunteers are currently finishing up the Annual Fall Lake Survey. This year certainly has presented some unique challenges for us.

First we did not have the support of our so called “Plant Guy” Bruce Johnson who decided to vacation in Alaska for the summer. The good news, we had two capable folks who stepped up to coordinate the project.

Dave Murphy our technology expert gave us a new twist with immediate map updates and the folks who did a specific area and this will allow us to know who did what the next year.

And Judy Waters who has been delivering the tablets all over the lake. She has done a great job also.

So thanks to both of them we will finish the survey, and lots of thanks to our new Lake Manager, Jessica Baumann. She and her crew have helped a great deal this year in getting areas that are difficult and ones we could not find volunteers to complete. We will now assess our new process and see what needs to be improved to make next year better.

Any feedback is most welcome.

I do want to thank the “many volunteers” who continue to make this a successful project to assist in the critical decision making for the following year on treatment plans. The lake runs on volunteers. We always need more.

Our last meeting of the year will be November 21, at the Kitchen Table in Gasburg, VA at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome as usual.

After our November meeting we will be in recess till March. I want to wish all our generous volunteers a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday, A Merry and Blessed Christmas and Joyful New Year.

Thank you all! from our Lake Environment Committee Members

Monthly Lake Environment meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the Kitchen Table Café, 4111 Gasburg Road, Gasburg, VA 23857 (across from Dollar General). Everyone is invited to participate.

Contact them at Environment@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Renewal notices, new member drive and John 3:16 Toy Drive

By now all of our members, paid through 2018, have received their renewal notifications for 2019 dues. If you haven’t received one, it’s because your dues are paid thru your Home Owner Association – Bruns-Del (Brunswick Estates, Clydes Retreat, & Delbridge Estates); Eaton’s Ferry Estates, Ferncliff, Hunter’s Creek, Jack’s Landing, Laura Woods, Long Branch Shores, Merrymount, Pasture Gate, River Forest, Roanoke Shores, Summerwood, Timber Creek, and Timbuctu.

John 3:16 toy boxes have been placed and are slated to be picked up by December 4. Then the real fun begins for the volunteer wrappers. If you have donated a gift and/or volunteered as a wrapper thank you for making this Christmas a special one for a local child. If you want to participate in wrapping contact the John 3:16 Center at (252) 586-1800. For more information about getting involved see page 9.

The last two months have been exceptional ones during our membership drive. How about keeping the momentum going by sponsoring a new member. Call Moira Underwood at (252) 586-6577 for details.

Like to know more about what we do …

Monthly Marketing & Membership Committee meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the new Tammy’s Place, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Please join us. We are a small group and would appreciate your input.

Contact them at MarketingMembership@LakeGastonAssoc.com

LGA welcomes 2 new business members:
Pea Hill Team - Lake Gaston
Sherry Walker, CPA, PPLC

Medicare Annual Election Period is October 15 - December 7.
Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to review options
or call 1-800-633-4227 24/7
Update of 2018/2019 School Year Education Committee Activities

This past summer we updated our in-school speaker volunteer data base on careers, life skills and hobbies and shared the topics with the schools this autumn. Currently, there have been a number of schools who are requesting speakers and the committee is coordinating speaker presentations with these schools.

We held our third annual meeting with the five county school superintendents on November 8, 2018. The meeting was a good forum for the LGA to review our educational activities with the superintendents as well as receiving their inputs and advice. The superintendents also provided highlights of their new programs and shared their ideas with each other. Scheduling of the Lakeside Learning Days (LLDs) for this school year is forthcoming. Typically the LLDs are held in the spring.

Any member interested in sharing their thoughts on our educational program and using their career experience and knowledge to support the Education Committee is welcome. Being active with the Education Committee and interacting with local students is a great way to provide an important service to our community.

Monthly Education Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the new Tammy’s Place, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. We welcome your participation at these meetings even if it is to learn more about our programs.

Contact them at Education@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

Update of activities for the Government Relations Committee

The Government Relations Committee is actively involved with an issue in Warren County. Warren County is the only county around the lake that doesn’t have County-wide zoning. Property owners in zoned neighborhoods on the lake can be negatively affected by activities on nearby unzoned land. We are keeping members apprised of the situation via email.

We urge members to voice their opinions on this topic to their local Commissioners. Information can be found on the committee website http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/GovRel/Gov_Relations.htm (top right hand corner – Warren County Zoning Issue). You can also show your support by attending public meetings on the subject. Large numbers of citizens can have a strong impact on county decisions. The next public meeting will be in December at Armory in Warrenton, watch for an update.

With Fall upon us, we have begun planning for activities for the coming year. One of the annual events our Committee conducts is the 5 County Forum. This forum will be held on March 14, 2019 and brings together County Managers/Administrators and local Board of Supervisors (VA)/Board of Commissioners (NC) for a morning of presentations and discussions of interest to those of us around the lake. It is a unique opportunity for our local officials from all 5 counties around the lake to get together. Members and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.

The Government Relations Committee is a non-partisan activity that focuses on monitoring and interacting with our local and, to some extent, state governments. Our common goal is to represent the interests of our membership on matters that affect the Lake Gaston area.

You can help by joining us at our monthly meetings or by volunteering a small amount of your time. For example, members can attend a local county Commissioner/Supervisors meeting and witness your government in action. It only takes an evening a month or less (we can switch off with other members) and can be very interesting.

Monthly Government Relations Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the new Tammy’s Place, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Come by, have a ham biscuit and cup of coffee and join us for an hour. Everyone is invited to participate and we won't make you do anything!

Contact us at GovernmentRelations@LakeGastonAssoc.com.

Need to know who are your Government Elected Officials
Lake Gaston NC & Lake Gaston VA
US, State and County… http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/GovRel/ElecOfficials.htm
LGA Government Relations Committee keeps this page on our website updated for you.
(It's the best kept secret under Committees, Government Relations. Check out who represents you at the lake and email them direct from our website. Telephone #s are listed as well. Use the link above to check out this information. You can also get to the County websites from the same page.)
Be prepared and stay safe this winter

Since this input is for safety awareness, there is a challenge of how to have suggestions become action. If there is no action, the article is just noise. So please, if you read something that might make your life safer, take action now, not later or tomorrow.

Before the bitter cold drops in and being in the wind off the water becomes really miserable, take the time to secure dock items and all watercraft, so that when spring comes there are not more surprises than you can handle. Winterizing personal watercraft and powered boats, while having a cost, is definitely less costly than repairs after damage from hard freezing temperatures.

Vessels need to be lifted out of the water with structure folded away or removed so that high water does not result in vessel or dock damage, and remember it never hurts to have a line tying vessels to docks even on lifts. The use of heavy duty tongue locks, or wheel boots or a removed wheel may stifle a theft of a boat or jetski stored in the driveway.

Look out for your neighbors and try to have ways to contact them if there is an issue with their property or an area power or water outage. Have a friend check on you when the weather is bad.

Make sure that items around the home do not scream out that there is no one home. Have a neighbor watch for handbills on doors, phone books in driveways, open doors, fallen trees, out of location trash receptacles, overgrown yards, or broken water lines.

Make sure that proper preparation for winter is taken to avoid severe damage to a residence. Disconnect water hoses from outdoor spigots and drain hoses. Ensure batteries are fresh in Smoke Detectors and install Carbon Monoxide Detectors if heating or cooking with gas.

Employ surveillance cameras as a neighborhood or individually for property protection. Let local Sheriff Departments know the property will be unused for a time and most will perform random checks of entryways. Don’t leave valuable assets vulnerable to theft in an unoccupied residence; record serial numbers and have proper property insurance for your valuables.

Part of preparing for the colder months is thinking about the condition of wood burning stoves and their chimneys. Proper maintenance is key to avoiding chimney fires, and proper ventilation is critical to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Buy the salt pellets now and store them where they will be needed when you go out for the mail or paper, or to keep from falling on your own steps. A small investment could save your life and those of your loved ones.

Have a great and safe Holiday Season. In your neighborhood be vigilant for unusual traffic and vehicles; SEE SOMETHING – CALL LAW ENFORCEMENT. Read something helpful? Take action now!

Monthly Public Safety Committee meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the new Tammy’s Place, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate to give us fresh ideas and viewpoints.

Contact us at Safety@LakeGastonAssoc.com

Lake Clean-Up Day – save the date – June 1, 2019

The Lake clean-up Committee is reviewing Lake Clean-up Day and as of this printing do not have all the details but in the new year will let you know of our decision as to how we will go forward. We are looking at June 1st as our official day but hope to expand our program.

In the meantime, please remember that every day is LAKE CLEAN-UP DAY! We have been made aware that there are groups that get together and clean-up around their areas and some along the roads around the lake. We thank you and applaud you for your effort. It would be great if it could become contagious. If everyone did a little area, it would make our roads look so much better. But wouldn’t it be great if those that throw trash out their car windows would refrain from littering.

If you have any questions or suggestions and want to indicate your willingness to participate, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email below or call us at (252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577. We thank you for your support of the LGA and our efforts to preserve and protect Lake Gaston.

Monthly Lake Clean-Up Committee meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the new Tammy’s Place, 235 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, NC 27850. Everyone is invited to participate. No Meeting in December.

Contact them at LakeCleanup@LakeGastonAssoc.com
## Approved LGA 2019 Budget

### Income
- 2018 Carry Forward ................................................. 2,050
- 2019 Dues ................................................................ 12,000
- Transfer from Prepaid 2019 Dues ................. 27,000
- **Total 2019 Income ................................................ 41,050**

### Expenses

#### Administration
- Annual Meeting ........................................................... 100
- Chambers of Commerce .............................................. 175
- Directors’ Retreat............................................................. 0
- Nominating Activity ...................................................... 0
- President ...................................................................... 150
- Venues ......................................................................... 800
- Vice President ................................................................ 40
- Website Maintenance .................................................. 625
- **Total Administration .............................................. 1,890**

#### Education
- Initiatives
- Lake Learning Events .............................................. 1,000
- Outdoor Presentation Supplies
- **Total Education ...................................................... 1,000**

#### Environmental
- LEMs Training and Gear ............................................. 100
- Travel and Forums ...................................................... 150
- Weeds Symposia & Forums ............................................ 0
- Revegetation Support .................................................. 200
- Water Testing Kits ....................................................... 620
- **Total Environmental .............................................. 1,070**

#### Executive Director
- Bulletins .................................................................... 6,650
- Database Maintenance ............................................... 1,500
- Office Space Rent ...................................................... 1,600
- Office Supplies ............................................................ 700
- Postage ....................................................................... 300
- Communications ........................................................ 2,600
- **Total ................................................................. 27,350**

#### Government Relations
- 5 County Forum .......................................................... 700
- Political Forums .......................................................... 300
- Tax Assessor Forums
- **Total Government Relations ................................. 1,000**

#### Lake Cleanup
- Acknowledgements ...................................................... 0
- Publicity ..................................................................... 500
- Food and Beverages .................................................... 150
- **Total Lake Cleanup ................................................ 650**

#### Marketing and Membership
- Advertising ................................................................ 2,000
- New Member Drive ................................................... 2,000
- Membership Certificates ................................................. 0
- Renewals ...................................................................... 600
- Billboards (was signs) ................................................ 1,980
- **Total M&M .......................................................... 6,580**

#### Safety
- First Responder Recognition Activity ......................... 100
- VA and NC Safe Boating Alliances ................................ 0
- Neighborhood Watch Materials .................................... 0
- Fire Safety Awareness .................................................. 200
- Emergency Preparedness ............................................. 0
- Boating Safety ............................................................. 0
- Community Shred Event ............................................. 680
- **Total Safety Committee ........................................ 980**

#### Treasurer
- Bank Charges and Fees ............................................... 50
- IRS Form 990 and 1099 Prep ....................................... 460
- Postage ....................................................................... 20
- Software ...................................................................... 0
- **Total Treasurer ...................................................... 530**

- **Total Expenses ....................................................... 41,050**

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**Weed Control questions** … Do the property owners in your subdivision have questions about weed control? If so, you may want to consider inviting Wally Sayko to your next HOA meeting. Wally is the Public Affairs Officer on the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council and he is available to make a presentation to your members and answer their questions. Contact him at wasay1943@gmail.com.
From the Desk of the Executive Director

As you know our annual Membership Drive starts September 1 and anybody joining from that time through the end of the year gets the rest of this year and all of next. I’m responsible for processing their entry into the LGA with their welcome letters and overseeing the administration of the entry into our membership data base.

In September we sent out a mailing to Brunswick and Halifax county lake property owners (not currently with the LGA) to encourage them to join. New members have been coming in from that avenue. We also have new members who have joined because they know a LGA member who sponsored their membership – both get a $5 discount – new member joins at $20 and the LGA member listed on the Sponsor line of the application gets $5 when they renew their membership.

Another avenue of new members is via our local realtors who give a complimentary membership to their new lake home/lot buyer. The number of realtors in this program is growing.

At the beginning of October each year I run the renewal notices. At the end of September we had 1,966 members paid thru December 31, 2018 (1,085 of that number are covered by their HOAs, see list below) . Thank goodness for mail merge to produce the individual renewal notices that C-Line Graphics then prints & mails for us.

And then I send invoices to the treasurers of Bruns-Del Estates (Brunswick Estates, Clydes Retreat, Delbridge Estates), Eaton’s Ferry Estates, Ferncliff, Hunter’s Creek, Jack’s Landing, Laura Woods, Long Branch Shores, Merrymount, Pasture Gate, River Forest, Roanoke Shores, Summerwood, Timber Creek, Timbuctu and West Winds Homeowner Associations for their 2018 dues.

Traditionally, the renewals slow up as our members start to focus on preparations for Thanksgiving, and then during early December renewals are coming in fast again.

Typically we have received about three quarters of the renewals by year end & reminder notices are run and mailed the first week of January. As you know, the grace period ends January 31, and only our members who have renewed for 2019 will get the February/March Bulletin and our information emails. Hence the article in this issue “Don’t let December/January Bulletin be your last.”

Each year the amount of members who renew on-line via credit card on the LGA website increases – this year is no exception. When you are renewing and have no changes to report, you need only complete the required fields (indicated in red to the right of the box) i.e. application type; name, email address; confirm email; and then select payment type near the bottom of the form. The majority of those transactions are successful.

Occasionally a member may experience difficulty on the payment section. You have the choice of using your credit card or your PayPal account (if you have one). When you click on your payment choice you will be presented, for example if using a credit card, with the fields you need to complete. After you have reviewed your answers & confirmed payment, you will receive a confirmation response before you exit that your transaction was successful. You will very quickly (within minutes) receive a receipt via email confirming your successful transaction.

When the on-line payments arrive at the LGA, they come in twos – a copy of the application you completed and a copy of confirmation of payment. I print out the application and print the payment confirmation on the back & that information is used to update your membership database record for 2019.

If you experience difficulty in the payment section, please email me at info@lakegastonassoc.com and tell me about it so I can help you.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Holiday Season!

Moira

Lake Gaston Lost & Found items …

If you have lost any property that may have floated away like a canoe/kayak, jet ski, boat, paddle board etc. call/email the LGA office at 1-800-586-6577 or (252) 586-6577 or info@lakegastonassoc.com and let us know, describe each item(s) and give us contact information for you.

If you have found any property that may have come ashore near you, please use the contact information above and describe the item found and how we can contact you.

Lost & Found items would be listed in this section of our bi-monthly bulletins but rest assured we would not list your contact information.
**We Are All About Water Safety**

It’s a pleasure to take the helm from Mike Klein after his two years of service as the president of the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council (LGWSC). We are a small organization with less than 100 members when compared to the Lake Gaston Association. However, the two organizations share many goals and members so that is good news.

A word about me as the new president. Like my predecessors, I too have a deep appreciation and respect for the water. I learned to sail and crew as a teenager on a 32ft racing sailboat. My first boat was a 12ft flat board sailboat. I took my first Coast Guard Safe Boating course in the 70’s when I bought a 16ft shoal draft sailboat which my wife, Chris and I learned to sail out on Lake Erie sharing the water with much larger boats including 800ft+ lake freighters.

Fast forward a lifetime and we now have a house on the lake at about Mile Marker 5.5 and enjoy taking our 24ft Avalon pontoon boat out whenever we can. It’s been fun teaching the adult son about the water and now the grandson. More on that later. I’m also proud to say I took my second Coast Guard Safe Boating class as a refresher just a couple of years ago here at the lake.

I hope to report next time on our plans for the LGWSC in 2019 and where we are going. Before closing, I would like to share with you some details about a very recent accident out on the lake involving a speeding bass boat and a slow moving pontoon boat.

Thanks to an alert skipper on the pontoon boat who took evasive action to avoid a collision amidship of his boat and the fact the bass boaters were wearing properly secured life jackets (one was propelled into the water), there was no loss of life and no serious injuries. However, six adults (four on the pontoon boat and two on the bass boat) didn’t see, hear or recognize danger until just before impact.

Even on a clear day in open water, you can never assume all is well. Be careful out there.

**Brian Goldsworthy**  
President, Lake Gaston Water Safety Council

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**Need a Children’s Loaner Life Jacket?**

The PERFECT solution when guests show up and you don’t have children’s life jackets of the correct size for all of them. The Lake Gaston Water Safety Council’s FREE loaner program makes children’s sizes available at the following locations:

- **Bracey, VA**
  - Holly Grove Marina (434) 636-3455
  - Poplar Pointe Marine (434) 636-2175
  - Americamps (434) 636-2668

- **Henrico, NC**
  - Washburn’s Marina (252) 537-1335
  - Sherwood Forest (252) 537-2526

- **Littleton, NC**
  - Morningstar Marina (252) 586-4661
  - Thousand Trails/Outdoor World (252) 586-4121
  - Stonehouse Timber Lodge (252) 586-3012

- **Gasburg, VA**
  - The Club (434) 577-2935

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**Mile marker buoys & danger buoys**

If you notice a mile marker buoy that is damaged, light is out, is missing from its mooring, has washed up on the shore, etc., please contact the LGA at info@lakegastonassoc.com or (252) 586-6577 or 1-888-586-6577 and we will report it to Dominion. Similarly, if you notice a danger or no wake buoy damaged, missing, etc. please contact us as above and we will report it to the NC Wildlife Resource Commission or VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
John 3:16 Toy Drive ends December 5 at LGA monthly meeting

Thank you to all of you who have contributed toys to the John 3:16 annual Toy Drive, & those of you who have sent checks direct to John 3:16 to help with buying clothes.

We are just days away from concluding the toy drive. If you haven’t yet had the chance to participate, the boxes will be collected by December 1 & will be at the LGA meeting on December 5 when we will hand the toys over to Jodie Dowhan, John 3:16 Board Chair. So that would be a great time to come with a toy and join in the excitement of helping them to give 150 children a Christmas this year.

Wrapping will occur at the Center from December 11th-15th. The Center asks that all gifts be new and unwrapped. They do not distribute any toy weapons of any kind.

Gender-neutral gifts are always good: puzzles (under 500 pieces), books, board games, coloring books, baby's toys, etc. They have had children registered from 1 month old to 16 years old. Every child gets a book, so appropriate books for different age levels (books boys may enjoy are often hardest to find) will be appreciated. Balls, dolls (ethnically diverse), art supplies, craft/model kits, small handheld electronic games, toy cars and trucks, watches or inexpensive jewelry for older children, etc. also are typical of the types of gifts given in the past.

John 3:16 recommends that we limit the cost of any gifts to under $20 & that most of the items listed can be found for $10 or less.

If you would like to send a donation instead, please make checks payable to The John 3:16 Center, Memo: Christmas Toy Drive and mail to The John 3:16 Center, P.O. Box 1541, Littleton, NC 27850. These donations help with the cost of purchasing clothing for each child.

Location of Toy Collection boxes: Lake Area ... Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer (River Rd); ABC Store (River Rd); Ace Hardware Store Lake Gaston (Elams Rd); Subway Lake Gaston (across from Lake Gaston Baptist church); Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce; Lake Gaston Outfitters (next to Food Lion); The Pointe (Morningstar Marina); Littleton ..., W.C. “Billy” Jones Memorial Library, 114 East S. Main St (Hwy 158), Littleton NC 27850; & BB&T, 131 East S. Main St (Hwy 158), Littleton; Town Center Complex (Hwy 158, west end of town after the traffic lights)

Wanted: Santa’s Helpers

No experience necessary – on the job training!

Positions available: Personal Shoppers, Social Butterflies, Wrappers, and Party People

Social Butterflies
Social Butterflies went to The John 3:16 Center for orientation. Interviews were held from November 6th until 150 children were signed up - volunteers needed to sign up for at least a two hour period during one of those days.

Shoppers
In Store - Shopping will begin once the interviews are complete and have been vetted. Everything will need to be purchased prior to December 7th. Shoppers would assist Shannon in buying mostly clothing and shoes for specific children.

Personal Shoppers - Assist parents in choosing the presents for their children. This added step lets us get to know the families even more as a volunteer “shops” with them in our store set up in the Littleton UMC Fellowship Hall from December 13-20th. Volunteers would need to sign up for at least a two-hour period one of these days.

Wrappers
Wrappers will assist the parents in wrapping their children’s gifts after their shopping appointments, December 13-20th between 9am and 5pm until all of the presents have been wrapped. All supplies including tape, paper, scissors, boxes, etc. will be provided. We will be wrapping in the Littleton UMC Fellowship Hall.

Party People
The Christmas parties will be held December 22nd at 11am, 12pm, and 1pm at The Center. Volunteers would need to arrive at 10am. Of course, volunteers are welcome to help later in the day if they cannot make it at 10am. Volunteers help in many areas including serving food, as Santa's elves, helping with parking and taking gifts to the car.
**Don’t let the December/January Bulletin be your last**

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had time to relax with your families. Maybe you had a chance to get to the lake and kick back and get in a little fishing. Now it’s the run up to Christmas and we know renewing your membership for 2019 will probably take a back seat. We can understand that. We will be sending you a reminder the beginning of January, so we will catch you then.

However, in case you want to take care of business now and don’t have our renewal letter in hand, you could either mail your check to LGA, P.O. Box 656, Littleton, NC 27850 for either one of the following membership levels: General $25, Bronze $50, Silver $100, or Lifetime $250; with a note of any changes.

Or, you could go on line and pay by credit card. Click on www.lakegastonassoc.com/Membership/JoinForm.htm which will take you straight to the on-line form. After completing the required fields and indicating any changes that need to be made to your membership record, go to the bottom of the form and click on the “Make Payment and/or Submit Info” box, and that will get you on the path to pay by credit card or PayPal (if you want to pay us with money from your PayPal account).

If you want to renew your business on-line, follow the same steps above and select Business $50.

Note: when renewing on-line, make sure you fill in the *required fields i.e. Application type (choose renew), Name, email address & confirm email address, or you won’t be able leave that screen when you get to the bottom and click on Submit info / Make Payment.

If that happens, scroll back up and complete the *required field you missed, and then you will be able to proceed to the on-line payment choices. You don’t have to fill in the other fields if your information (lake address, mailing address etc. has not changed.

As we said earlier, we will be sending out a reminder the first week of January and hopefully if you have not renewed at the time, you will be able to do so before the end of January.

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**Calendar notes …**

Dec 1,5,6,7,8,9* - “It’s a Wonderful Life – A Radio Play,” 7:30 p.m. & *2:30, Lakeland Theatre, Littleton (252) 586-3124
Dec 8,9*,14,15,16* – “Scrooge!,” 7:30 p.m., *2:30 p.m. Colonial Center, South Hill (434) 262-4170
Dec 1 – Littleton Christmas Parade, 11 a.m. (line-up 10 a.m.) Downtown Littleton (252) 586-6169
Dec 1 – Holiday Home Tour, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lake Gaston (252) 535-5394 or (434) 577-2660
Dec 1 – Lake Gaston Holiday Boat Parade, 5:30 p.m., The Pointe at Lake Gaston / Morningstar Marina (252) 586-4661
Dec 2 - Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade, 2 p.m., Roanoke Ave, Roanoke Rapids (252) 533-2847
Dec 2 - South Hill Christmas Parade, 2 p.m., South Hill (434) 447-4547
Dec 5 – LGA monthly meeting 9:30 – noon, Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577
Dec 5 – Shriners Seafood Festival, 5:30p.m. – 8 p.m., South Hill, VA (434) 247-1297
Dec 6 – Eaton Ferry Road AARP, 6 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 586-4705
Dec 6 – U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band, 7 p.m., Center, Halifax Comm. College (252) 538-4336
Dec 8 – 2nd Saturday Canal Hike, 9 a.m., Roanoke Canal Museum Trail (252) 537-2769
Dec 8 – Christmas in Historic Halifax, 10 – 4 p.m., Halifax (252) 583-7191
Dec 11 - Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091
Dec 13 & 27 - Mountain Bike Trail Ride Meet-Up, 6 – 8:30 p.m., Medoc Mountain State Park, Hollister, (252) 586-1770
Dec 15 – “Lakeland Singers Christmas Concert,” 7:30 p.m. Lakeland Theater Company, Littleton (252) 586-3124
Jan 1 – Good Luck! New Year’s Day Black-eyed Peas & Hog Jowls Brunch, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Littleton Lions Den (252) 586-5959
Jan 1 – First Day Hike, 10:30 a.m. Medoc Mountain State Park, Hollister, (252) 586-6588
Jan 2 – NO LGA monthly meeting 9:30 – noon, Lake Gaston Baptist Church (252) 586-6577
Jan 2 – Lake Gaston Stripper Club, 6:30 p.m. Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico 866-7112
Jan 8 – Lake Gaston Computer Club, 1 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 537-7091
Jan 10 - Eaton Ferry Road AARP, 6 p.m., Lake Gaston Lions Den, Henrico (252) 586-5228
Jan 25 - American Legion Post 308 Spaghetti Dinner at 5 – 7 p.m. Hwy 903, Littleton (252) 586-3268
Jan 26 – Haliwa-Saponi Winter Pow-Wow, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Doe Spun Bldg, 403 Gibbs Ave., Hollister
Jan 30 - Lake Gaston Water Safety Council, 6 p.m. social/6:30 p.m. dinner, Kennon House, Gasburg (252) 586-4705
May 4 – LGA Community Shred event, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Roanoke-Wildwood VFD, 790 Lizard Creek Rd.
Jun 1 – 9th Annual Lake Clean-up Day, Littleton (252) 586-6577

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Medoc Mountain State Park website
(Put cursor on website & press CTRL + click to follow link)
### LGA Monthly Committee Meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Meeting Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>2nd Friday</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Tammy's Place **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Relations</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Tammy's Place **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Tammy's Place **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Kitchen Table Cafe *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Membership</td>
<td>3rd Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Tammy's Place **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Clean-Up</td>
<td>Last Wednesday</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Tammy's Place **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Kitchen Table Cafe is located at 4111 Gasburg Road in Gasburg, VA 23857 across from the Dollar General Store.

** Tammy's Place is now located at 231 N. Mosby Ave., (Hwy 903), Littleton, N.C. 27850

Occasionally a LGA scheduled committee meeting may need to be cancelled. If you are on that committee the chair will inform you via email of its cancellation and it will be reflected on the LGA’s calendar on our website at [http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/Organization/Calendar.htm](http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/Organization/Calendar.htm)

A great link for your favorites list.

### Business Members ...

Visit their websites at [www.lakegastonassoc.com/Membership/Businesses.htm](http://www.lakegastonassoc.com/Membership/Businesses.htm)
Business Members Continued ...

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Current Members: 2,333 (Households 2,231 / Businesses 102)

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P.O. Box 656 ~ Littleton, NC 27850

Or Current Resident