



Eastside Express

Circulation 630 Households

Volume 30 No. 1&2

◆ River Forrest Shores ◆ Wayside Manor ◆ Easton Place Civic League

Many thanks to Lindsay Sotelo for helping make our neighborhoods a cleaner community!

The next clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 7 at 8 a.m. Volunteers welcome!

For quite a few years Lindsay Sotelo has been managing our Adopt-a-Spot neighborhood clean-ups. Recently, however, Lindsay has had to step down due to work commitments.

In her Adopt-a-Spot role, Lindsay scheduled the clean-ups, communicated with volunteers, maintained the clean-up supplies and reported our statistics to the City of Norfolk. We are so grateful for the leadership she provided. Because of her efforts, our community has been a much more attractive place to be.

To ensure that a strong clean-up program remains in place, three volunteers have stepped (Continued on page 3)

How to work productively with the City of Norfolk will be the topic for the civic league's Jan. 9 meeting

Dealing with city government can be intimidating. There are many departments, bureaus and offices and it sometimes can be difficult to determine which one is responsible for what service. Fortunately, the City of Norfolk has established Norfolk Cares as a single point of contact for those who wish to request a city service, report a concern, seek information about Norfolk, or follow-up on a previous request. If you want to know more about how Norfolk Cares works, plan to attend the civic league's Monday, January 9 meeting, as our guest speaker will be Halima Akar, customer service manager for Norfolk Cares. In the meantime, you can reach Norfolk Cares by calling 757-664-6510 or by filling out a service request on line at <https://www.mynorfolk.org/#/homepage>.

Ms. Akar will seek to take the mystery out of working with city government for us. Besides giving an overview of key processes and procedures, she will answer any questions we may have about how to resolve an issue, concern or question about Norfolk city operations. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the social hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Sellger Drive.

Ms. Akar was appointed to her current position in 2011. In this role, she works to enrich the Norfolk Cares Center customer experience through process improvements in a fast, effective, and focused manner. She seeks to drive meaningful change and improvements by working in partnership with internal and external leaders, citizens, businesses and visitors. She values customer feedback and is intent on getting our feedback at the upcoming meeting.

Ms. Akar joined the City of Norfolk in June of 2005 as a support technician in the Bureau of Property Maintenance. She also previously served as the outreach coordinator for the Office of Community Empowerment. In that role she was responsible for working in (Continued on page 3)

Recycle Dates

January 10th, 24th, February 7th and 21st

Please put your recycling can out.

Street Sweeping: January 27th and February 24th

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January Meeting

Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on January 9, at 7:00pm

Join our civic league Facebook conversation

One of the best ways of staying up with what's happening in our three neighborhoods is monitoring our civic league Facebook page. If you aren't part of the group yet, then take note that you need to be. You can search for us on Facebook by entering *New River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League*.

Here's a little sample of what has been posted on that page recently: A map of where cool Christmas tree lights were located; reminders about the civic league's Georgia Robinson Christmas Dinner; and then photos of the fun at that dinner.

We also have an email distribution list to issue fast-breaking news to residents. If you are not on that list and would like to be just email your request to riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com.

So, join in the conversation!

Consider bringing a snack to share at our next meeting

Those of you who were regular attendees at civic league meetings pre-pandemic probably remember our social time after the meeting was rich with special snacks, many of which were homemade. That's because up until the pandemic we asked members to consider bringing a snack when possible. Well, guess what...we would like to resume the practice.

If you plan to attend the Monday, January 9, meeting, please consider bringing a snack (store-bought or homemade) for the social time. The time after the meeting is when we can talk about the presentation or just catch up with our neighbors. It is nice to be gathering together again, especially when there are goodies to enjoy!



Our newsletter is printed by Virginia Printing and Signs 757-855-5474

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Be The Best Of Whatever You Are

By Douglas Malloch

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass —
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are!

Important Numbers

Norfolk Cares

Assistance Center

Hours: Mon—Fri, 9AM-5PM

(757) 664-6510

For Emergency Call 911

Our Community Officers:

Officer Joseph Brown:

Cell-757-377-4750



Presidents Corner

Hello neighbors, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and gleefully welcomed 2023!

First of all a huge thank you to Stephen Lewis for serving as our president in 2022. Under Stephen's

leadership we held two very informative and well-orchestrated forums for candidates for the Norfolk City Council and School Board elections. Additionally, the civic league board worked closely with the City of Norfolk Department of Transit with the promise of having speed cushions installed on Sellger Drive in early 2023.

We are hopeful we will have improved City Council representation for Ward 4 with the newly elected Councilman, JP Paige. Mr. Paige will likely be making an appearance at one of our civic league meetings in the near future. As you probably know we have lacked adequate representation from our Ward 4 City Council representative for many years.

There are many issues the civic league leadership is following at the City Council and School Board levels. This includes, but is not limited to, the property currently known as Easton Preschool. As soon as we know when this will be on the School Board's agenda, we will be asking our community to attend the meeting and support our efforts. We will also continue to keep an eye on what is happening with the Military Circle redevelopment and report back to you accordingly.

Another big project possibility looming in our Easton Place neighborhood is the planned expansion of the light rail. If you want to keep up-to-date on this and other things affecting our area please join our Facebook page **New River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League**. Not on Facebook but want to stay informed? Just make sure we have your correct email address.

As your newly elected, but not so new President, I want to hear from you! What can we do as a community to make our neighborhoods ones for which to be proud? You can reach me by phone at 757-478-7585 or by email at debby4hand@gmail.com.

Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you in the future!

(Continued from page 1—Akar) partnership with citizens, businesses and community-based organizations to enable neighborhoods to reduce crime and drug related activity through strategic prevention and intervention programs.

She holds a Master's degree in Social Work, with a concentration of studies in Community Organization, Planning and Administration from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

When she isn't on the job, she enjoys spending time with her two children and reading.

(Continued from page 1— Cleanup) forward to lead this important effort. KK German will handle the reporting aspects while Bill Bunch and Rodney Wright will handle the boots-on-the-ground efforts such as scheduling clean-ups and maintaining supplies. The civic league has the responsibility of picking up trash along Curlew Drive, from Kidd Boulevard to Newtown Road, and in the Military Gardens area. Both of these areas are high-traffic in nature and consequently tend to get littered quickly.

The next clean-up is set for Jan. 7. Volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. We would love to have more volunteers. Volunteers are provided safety vests, trash grabbers and gloves. If you would like to be added to the list for future notifications about clean-ups, send an email to KK German at riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com or you can call or text KK at 757-714-2335 or Bill Bunch at 757-323-3661.





Karen Davis
 REALTOR, CDPE, CIAS, ASP



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The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage neared its all-time low this week, averaging 2.88%

Source: Freddie Mac

30-year fixed-rate



2.88%
 0.8 point

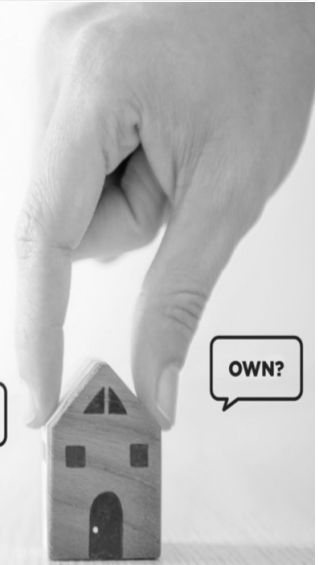
LAST WEEK: 2.90%

LAST YEAR: 3.65%

Rent vs. Own

In at least 50 cities in the United States and Canada, it is cheaper to buy than rent. Before we dive in, take a look at what happens when people rent instead of own.

Rent	Own
Paying landlord's mortgage, making them richer.	Increasing your own wealth.
Monthly payment is subject to increase year-to-year.	A fixed mortgage keeps your monthly payment constant.
Constant payment that never goes away.	In the United States, pre-paying parts of your mortgage can reduce your debt.
The space belongs to someone else.	Your own space to customize and design however you want.
At the will of your landlord for changes or updates.	You are your own landlord!



15-year fixed-rate



2.36%
 0.7 point

LAST WEEK: 2.40%

LAST YEAR: 3.14%

5-year hybrid ARM

NO CHANGE **2.90%**
 0.2 point

LAST WEEK: 2.90%

LAST YEAR: 3.38%

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- Check for proper steering and ride





Riverside Baptist Church

5768 Sellger Drive Norfolk, Virginia 23502
 Phone: (757) 466-9461
 Sunday School: 9:45am
 Worship Service: 11:00am
 Rev. Fred Williams, Pastor

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
 even so must the Son of man be lifted up: John 3:14*



2023 Board of Directors

Debby Forehand, President

Debby4hand@gmail.com

(757)478-7585

Kathy O'Hara, First Vice President

keohara@cox.net

(757)461-5252 - home

Liz Albert, Second Vice President

AlbertfamilyVA@aol.com

(757)681-0131

Sarah Ware, Recording Secretary

Ceraann1@gmail.com

(757)679-3692

Lisa Gragg, Corresponding Secretary

Happyjalapeno6@yahoo.com

(757)373-2658

K.K. German, Treasurer

Kkgerman@gmail.com

(757)714-2335

Susan Foley, Trustee

graywolf_23462@yahoo.com

(757)455-6689 - home

Rodney Wright, Second Vice Trustee

Rodney.wright@hotmail.com

(757)779-7788



Bostic Veterinary Hospital

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Aldersgate United Methodist Church

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk

AldersgateNorfolkUMC.org

A PLACE FOR YOU

Worship Experience — 11:00am

Are you a walker? Then, put some purpose in your walks. We need volunteers to deliver newsletters!

For most of the year residents receive a newsletter or flyer on their doorsteps monthly. This is a key way the civic league keeps our community informed. Now, we need help to keep things running smoothly.

We need a couple of new volunteers to fill some gaps. The routes are not burdensome. Most of the time, the delivery can happen in 15-20 minutes. If you are a regular walker or if your dog regularly walks you, please consider donating a small slice of your time monthly (except July).

Lisa Gragg, corresponding secretary, manages the newsletter delivery schedule and communicates with the newsletter carriers. If you can help out, please call or text Lisa at 757-373-2658 or email her at happyjalapeno6@yahoo.com.



Quick Serve Food Store

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more!**



Treasurer's Budget Report
RFS/WM/EP Civic League
For the month ended November, 2022

	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	Year to date Actual	Over (under) Budget
Income				
Newsletter Ads	1,335		1,385	50
Dues	1,300	24	1,558	258
Interest earned	230	0	194	(36)
Other		[1]	2,364	2,364
Total Income	2,865	24	5,500	2,635
Disbursements				
Newsletter Printing	1,500	264	1,506	6
Membership Drive	100		33	(67)
Postage/Office Supplies	50	25	25	(25)
Meeting Refreshments	50			(50)
Door Prizes	80		70	(10)
CL Meeting Hall	245		175	(70)
Federation Dues	40		40	-
Awards	100			(100)
Special Events	1,250	699	890	(360)
Incorporation fees	25		25	-
Board Meeting Hall	100		100	-
Other		[2]	130	110
Total Disbursements	3,560	989	2,994	(566)
Net Income (Outflow)	(695)	(965)	2,506.70	3,202

	Checking	Reserve (Savings)	Trust Account (CD)	Total cash
Reconciliation:				
1/1/2022	947.43	1,372.34	11,470.36	13,790.13
2022 year to date (from above column)				2,506.70
				<u>16,296.83</u>
10/31/2022	1,518.27	3,115.81	11,662.75	<u>16,296.83</u>

[1] The legal fees account was closed and all the funds (2153.71) were deposited to our general fund by authorization of those who donated \$100 or more. In addition, we received donations of \$210.

[2] Other Expense: Paypal fees - \$14.43; In memoriam for Harry Jones to Riverside Baptist Church - \$100; 3 new grabbers for trash pickup volunteers - \$15.31.

KKG 12/19/22

Norfolk Sheriff's Office



Joe Baron
Sheriff/High Constable

Sheriff's Office
811 City Hall Ave
Norfolk, VA 23510

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Minutes

River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League Meeting

Nov. 14, 2022

President Stephen Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced the speaker for the evening: Sean Washington, the Interim Director of Economic Development for the City of Norfolk.

Mr. Washington opened by noting his department adheres to three operating principles: 1) to be a trusted partner with the community; 2) understanding that less is more, i.e. making doing business in Norfolk as simple and direct as possible; and 3) developing an inclusionary model for economic development. He then shared some examples of what an inclusionary model looks like. He referenced a partnership with Tidewater Community College and Colonna’s Shipyard that helped train and recruit welders.

He noted that business retention and expansion are major focuses of the department. A key aim is job generation that goes beyond minimum wage and the department works with local businesses to help make that goal a reality. The Economic Development Department also works to foster entrepreneurship. He pointed out staff works with partners to help businesses get started by offering legal, financial and insurance instruction. For example, a consulting company might help businesses navigate the intricacies of a lease.

Mr. Washington explained that he also serves as the Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority. The Authority is the legal entity that is providing leadership on the development of Military Circle. Mr. Washington then went on to give a detailed report on the current status of this project.

He reported that the Authority is still in initial negotiations with the Wellness Circle on the development contract for this site. He pointed out that plans do include an arena. He said that many details are still undecided as, at this point, the city is not comfortable with the financial “ask” of the Wellness Circle. He said Sentara owns 18 of the 90 acres and thus will remain in that area. Demolition is scheduled to begin in March 2023. Mr. Washington also answered a number of questions from those attend-

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ing - from the future of Scope to the possibility of a traffic study on Military Highway.

Following Mr. Washington’s presentation, Officer Joseph Brown gave a crime report. He said he was gratified to report there had not been any crime in the month of October. He went on to offer advice, including cautioning residents not to leave their cars running unattended during cold weather and locking cars when shopping, especially during the upcoming holiday season. Some attending noted encountering people on motorcycles deliberately slowing down or stopping traffic. Officer Brown said the Police Department was aware of this issue and the Vice Unit was in charge of dealing with it. He said the theft of catalytic converters remains a concern.

In other business:

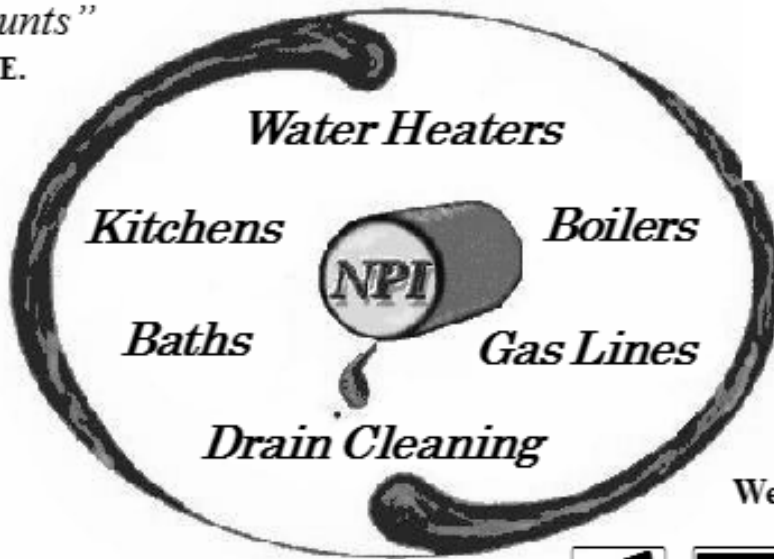
- The September and October minutes were approved; Treasurer KK German recommended the expenditure of \$800 for the Christmas party since it appeared the civic league would be exceeding its line item for special events (Continued on page 11)

**Next Civic League Board Meeting
Will be held in the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse fellowship hall at 6:30PM on January 2, 2023**

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(Continued from page 9—Minutes) in the 2022 budget;

- Those attending were reminded that the Georgia Robinson Christmas Party would take place Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. and attendees would be asked to bring a dessert;
- Lindsay Sotelo, who has coordinated neighborhood cleanups for the civic league, has stepped down due to other commitments. Thus, a new coordinator is needed;
- Officers for 2023 were elected; and
- A content editor is needed for the civic league’s new webpage which is planned for launch in the new year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The Georgia Robinson Christmas Party: A Picture-Perfect Event

The Annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Dinner was held Saturday, Dec. 3 at East Coast Gospel Lighthouse and can we just say this - a good time was had by all!

From a wonderful catered meal to homemade desserts made by neighbors to the rousing game of Dirty Santa (which involves opportunities to steal gifts from other recipients), the evening was boisterous but good-natured. Here are some pictures of the fun. If you missed it this year, well...there’s always next year!



