



Eastside Express

Circulation 630 Households

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

Requesting city services is easy with the MyNorfolk app

By Liz Albert, Second Vice President

Many of us are aware of the Norfolk Cares Center and how it is a one-stop shop for putting in a service complaint or addressing a concern. Besides the ability to call the center at 664-6510, did you know that you can use the MyNorfolk app to create and track service requests?

This is a very convenient option because while you can still call the Norfolk Cares Center, the hold times for that service are routinely quite long. In contrast, filing a service request on the MyNorfolk app is quicker and really quite easy.

The MyNorfolk app offers over 80 different types of services to request from the city — everything from handling suspected narcotics activity to repairing a park fountain. Specific reportable items that are most pertinent to our area include: litter on city property; roadway repair; tall weeds and grass; abandoned vehicles (on street); inoperable vehicles; property use issues; athletic field maintenance; and deceased animals.

(Continued on page 3)

Councilman John “JP” Paige will be the featured speaker in January

Norfolk City Councilman John “JP” Paige will be the guest speaker at our civic league’s first meeting in 2024. The date is Jan. 8; the time is 7 p.m.; and the place is Aldersgate United Methodist Church. There are many projects, programs and issues in Norfolk that deserve this community’s attention, from the redevelopment of Military Circle to the need for a recreation center on the Eastside. The January meeting is the perfect time to talk with our City Council representative and get the latest updates on what is important to us.



JP Paige

Councilman Paige was elected in November 2022 to represent Ward 4, which encompasses our neighborhoods. He is a graduate of Norfolk State University and went on to attend Troy State University where he earned his M.S in Management. Councilman Paige is a small business owner, operating a successful bail bonding company here in our city.

His career includes a stint as an Adjunct Professor at Norfolk State University with the Going Places program in Portsmouth, VA, His hard work and dedication to education, facilitated a later return to Norfolk State University as director of student services for the School of Business. He is an honorable United States Air Force veteran,

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Recycle Dates

January 9th and 23rd, February 6th and 20th

Please put your recycling can out.

Street Sweeping: Wayside Manor—February 23rd

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January Meeting

Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on January 8th, at 7:00 p.m.

(Continued from page 1—JP Paige) a proud Lifetime Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and is an active member of the Norfolk Alumni Chapter. He is the recipient of many national awards for his leadership in the Kappa Alpha Psi Inc's youth initiative known as Guide Right.

Mr. Paige and his family are committed members of the historic Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. He and his wife Djuna reside in the Middletown Arch community.

Brother, sister, can you spare a snack?

The civic league is asking members to consider bringing a snack to the next civic league meeting (Jan. 8) to share with neighbors. After each meeting we have a social time and that's an informal, but great way to catch up with longtime friends and make new friends. And that's always easier and more fun when you do it over food!

Norfolk City Council retreat summary for November 27, 2023

**By Debby Forehand,
Civic League President**

On Nov. 27, Norfolk City Council held its annual retreat to discuss important city business and plans for the future. The retreat, held at the Slover Library, was open to the public. I represented the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League along with Second Vice President Liz Albert. Also attending was Charla Worley of the Lake Taylor Civic League. Personally, I wish more than three citizens had attended this day-long, action-packed discussion. However, I am thankful I live in a country, state and city that makes such information accessible to its residents.

The morning session started with a refresher course on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) for the City Council representatives. This session was important because understanding FOIA law makes our city leaders
(Continued on page 7)

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Officer Joseph Brown:

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Presidents Corner

Happy New Year All!

Looking back on this past year the civic league has had a quiet year compared to the past few years. However, one thing we have proudly accomplished

is the relationship we have built with our city's leadership. The "Eastside" has become a term frequently uttered in City Council meetings whereas in the past this part of the city was not recognized at all!

Volunteers make our community what it is today! Our volunteers do not get enough credit! When you see a post about our Adopt-A-Spot volunteers please thank them. Bill Bunch and Denise Dietrich have grown a team who contribute their time to keep our area of the city beautiful!! Many thanks to each and every one of them!

TOP on my list of things we need to do in 2024 is keep our eyes on the Easton Preschool property. As you are aware, our concern has been that turning it over to the City of Norfolk could likely mean more high density housing in an area already beset by heavy traffic. Many of you know we have been asking the School Board to consider holding onto the property for future school needs as the multi-family population on the "Eastside" is increasing exponentially. We have even suggested an alternative in the meantime so there isn't a rush to turn that property over to the city. That alternative involves supporting the move of the Madison Alternative School and the Open Campus program to that facility. As we learn timing of the School Board decision, we will let you know. I am sure I can count on you to be on board with attending a School Board meeting to voice your support for retaining the property for school use.

So, lastly, I would love to hear from you. What is on your bucket list for our community? Please send your positive thoughts and suggestions to Debby4hand@gmail.com.

Let's make 2024 the best year for the Eastside!

(Continued from page 1— MyNorfolk) If you are worried about having difficulty looking up the street address your request requires, the MyNorfolk app will pinpoint and automatically fill in the needed information. Also, the app allows you to upload images and provide detailed comments if you choose to do so. It is possible to make a request anonymously, but you would miss out on any updates on the request such as a notice of completion.

Recently I discussed with Mayor Dr. Kenneth Alexander the need for citizen input in order to sufficiently provide needed city services. He stated, "We don't know, what we don't know. We cannot be everywhere, so the citizens need to be our eyes and ears."

If you see something that the city needs to correct, do not just grumble to yourself or a neighbor about the problem--say something! Only by working together can we make Norfolk a better place to live.

Make a difference! Volunteer to serve on the neighborhood clean-up effort

The last neighborhood clean-up effort was held Saturday, Dec. 23. Attending to lend a helping hand were: Bill Bunch and Denise Diedrich (co-leaders), Chris Glaves, Ben Bush, Jean Cope, Harry Rhodes and Kathy O'Hara. All total, 15 bags of trash were collected and, as a result, our area looked a lot cleaner for the holidays!

We live in an area where there are significant cut-through roads (Sellger Drive and Curlew Drive) and two light rail stations, so trash along the roadside has become a significant challenge.

That's why a team of dedicated volunteers regularly participates in trash pickups in these areas: Military Gardens on S. Military Highway from Sellger Drive to Water's Edge Apartments; and along the light rail line on Curlew Drive from tKidd Blvd on the west to Newtown Road on the east.

If you are interested in obtaining more information or volunteering for future clean-ups, you can contact Bill at 757-323-3661. Also kudos to Clara Allen, Wiley Hall, KK German, Chris Glaves, Jean Cope and Lauren Vaughan who often pick up trash between team clean-ups.



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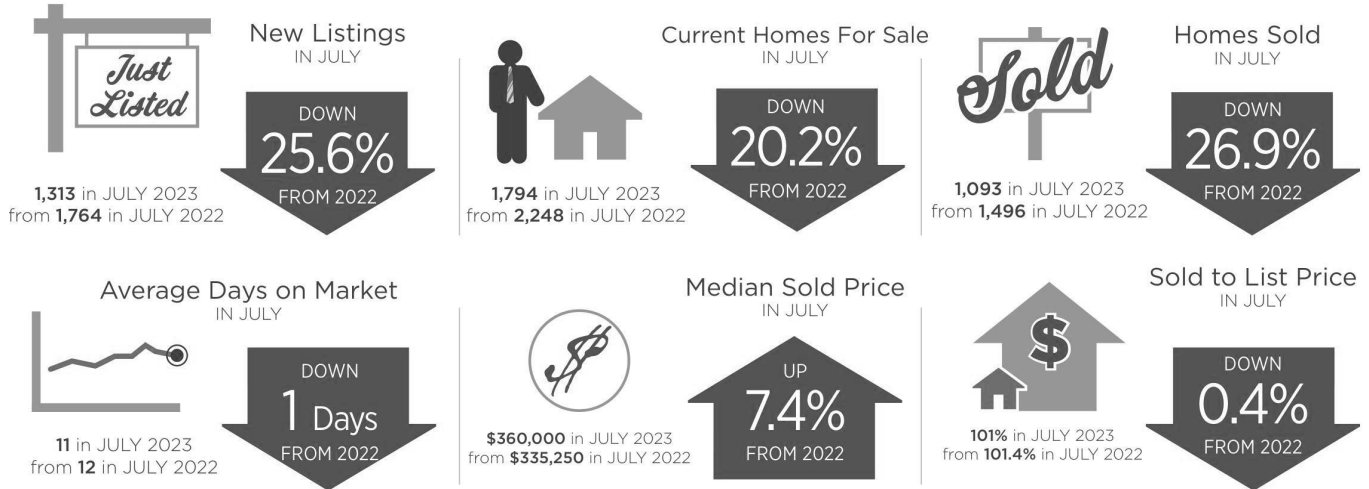


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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET UPDATE



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Kkgerman@gmail.com
 (757)714-2335

Suzanne Duncan, Trustee
Suzanneduncan63@gmail.com
 (757)719-8529

Dustin Wallace, First Vice Trustee
Dustin_I-wallace@yahoo.com
 (210)843-5059

Edith Lizalde, Second Vice Trustee
Edith.lizalde@yahoo.com
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Kathy O'Hara, First Vice President
keohara@cox.net
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Liz Albert, Second Vice President
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 (757)681-0131

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AldersgateNorfolkUMC.org

A PLACE FOR YOU

Worship Experience — 11:00am

A salute to a team member who is no longer with us



Patrick Dade, who lived on Brinda Court, was a regular part of the neighborhood clean-up team. He approached what could be a distasteful job with determination to make a difference in our corner of he world. He was cheerful, quick with a smile and an encouraging

word and industrious. Sadly, Patrick passed away on November 16.

Patrick proudly served his country for 20 years and retired honorably as an aviation mechanic in the United States Navy. After retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his friends and his family, especially his daughter, Amani and his fiancé Ann Myers. He also leaves behind his father, Lonnie Dade and his brothers, Mike Dade and his wife, Joanie; Gregory Dade and his wife, Judith; and Chris Mardis and his wife, Theresa.

Patrick was interred on December 19 at the Albert G, Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. United



States Navy full honors were rendered in honor of his service to this country.

(Continued from page 2—City Council Retreat) aware of what information must be provided to citizens and what is exempt from disclosure. In addition, understanding what constitutes a conflict of interest, and what doesn't, helps City Council members avoid conflicts that could damage public trust.

Following that training were updates on: 1) the St. Paul's Project by Dr. Susan Perry, director of housing and community development; 2) the Coastal Storm Water Project by Col. Brian Hollberg and other Army Corps of Engineers staff and Kyle Spencer, chief resilience officer; 3) the Ocean View sand replenishment project by Chuck Joyner, assistant city engineer. The final morning presentation was led by a preservation group and an architectural firm regarding ideas for updating Chrysler Hall and Scope. These structures are considered historical since they opened in 1971 and may be eligible for historic tax credits as long as the updates meet certain requirements. The tax credit benefit is roughly 25 percent, so it's a significant amount. This presentation may have been premature since City Council has not given anyone instructions on what they would like to see happen to these properties.

The afternoon session, led by Sean Washington, director of economic development, opened with talk about MacArthur Mall and Military Circle Mall. No decisions have been made on the future of these projects. Employee Relations staff followed with a discussion regarding collective bargaining (unions) in the city. The last session was a round table talk where each City Council member voiced his or her concerns about what was facing the city.

What I found very interesting was the fact the "Eastside" was referenced many times! I believe that happened because our civic league and its members have been vocal about the needs in this area of our city. I want to thank our members for their ongoing support of our work. You are part of what makes the Eastside great.

Civic league's annual Georgia Robinson Christmas party a holly, jolly time!

The annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Party proved to be a magical night of food, fun and fellowship — and thievery! A Dirty Santa gift exchange, where folks could pick a wrapped or bag gift from the gift table or steal a neighbor's gift, was a lively one. Also, in attendance were Mayor Kenneth Alexander and Councilman J.P. Paige and his wife Djuna. Mr. Paige, in particular, had sev-

eral gifts "stolen," but remained a good sport throughout the fun.

Here are some photos of the event. If you couldn't make it this year, we hope these snapshots will inspire you to be a part of the festivities next year!



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Treasurer's Budget Report
RFS/WM/EP Civic League
For the month ended December 31, 2023
PROJECTED

	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	Year to date Actual	Over (under) Budget
Income				
Newsletter Ads	1,415		1,475	60
Dues	1,500		1,293	(207)
Interest earned	260	68	266	6
Donations and Other	[2]	500	3,009	3,009
Total Income	3,175	568	6,043	2,868
Disbursements				
Newsletter Printing	1,550	38	1,571	21
Marketing	-		125	125
Membership Drive	40			(40)
Postage/Office Supplies	25		31	6
Meeting Refreshments	20			(20)
Door Prizes	80		80	-
CL Meeting Hall	315		315	-
Federation Dues	20		20	-
Awards	100			(100)
Special Events	1,850	916	1,814	(36)
Incorporation fees	25		25	-
Board Meeting Hall	100		100	-
Other	[1]	55	11	(44)
Total Disbursements	4,180	953	4,092	(88)
Net Income (Outflow)	(1,005)	(386)	1,951	2,956

[1] \$10.09 Paypal fees

[2] \$500 - Mini-grant from city; \$2500-
city Block-by-Block Grant; \$9
donations

	Checking	Reserve (Savings)	Trust Account (CD)	Total cash
Reconciliation:				
1/1/2023	522.55	3,116.20	11,728.31	15,367.06
2023 year to date (from above column)				1,950.68
				<u>17,317.74</u>
12/31/2023	2,707.68	2,617.19	11,992.87	<u>17,317.74</u>

KKG 12/18/2023

This is a projected ending report. But for the \$3000 received in grants from the city, the civic league would be virtually on target as far as budget projections for this year. Less the \$3000 received, our year to date would be minus \$1049, only \$44 under budget estimates. The \$500 mini grant covered the cornole game + trophies and the bounce house we provided at the annual picnic. The \$2500 grant will be a longer term financial tracking responsibility and includes reimbursements for newsletters, marketing (signs in the neighborhood including the picnic banner), Zoom software and a matching amount to send a worthy volunteer to learn how to set up a website and maintain it.



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Minutes

**River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton
 Place Civic League
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 November 13, 2023**

President Debby Forehand called meeting to order at 7 p.m. Second Vice President Liz Albert then led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The main speaker for the evening, Mrs. Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe, Norfolk School Board representative for Ward 4 was introduced. Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe has been a resident of Norfolk for the past 30+ years, is currently the vice chair of the Norfolk School Board and serves as the executive assistant to the superintendent of Newport News Public Schools. Her goals as a sitting board member from 2022-2027 include: advocating for all students and collaborating with the other boards members and the superintendent.

She wanted to address questions concerning the future of Easton Preschool and Madison Alternative

School. She noted as of now there are no plans to turn over Easton to the city for any development and that Madison is currently not fit to host students and a new building is a dire need. She did receive our civic league's suggestion that they move the Madison students to Easton, but noted that would require heavy renovation of Easton. However, she reassured those attending, the Board would keep that suggestion in mind.

Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe went on to discuss current initiatives that are being implemented in Norfolk Public Schools (NPS). First, they have a literacy initiative that targets prekindergarten (pre-K) children with literacy phonics and have pre-K teachers focused on reading and spelling. Also, under literacy a revised curriculum for 2nd graders has been implemented to improve phonics and reading comprehension. The second initiative involves improving classroom instruction. Instruction can be adjusted per student using data collected throughout the school year. Thirdly, additional in-school tutors for many subjects, (Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10—Minutes) including math, science and English, have been hired to help improve students' performance. A free online tutoring service is also a resource for students. Lastly, a strong professional development initiative is in place to coach not only regular teachers over the summer months, but is to also include long-term substitutes. These coaching sessions incorporate student data which helps identify areas where additional classroom instruction is needed.

A member of the audience asked, what are the needs of the school division and has the School Board put these needs into the budget submitted to City Council? Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe replied with a handout showing the NPS capital improvement plan, which can be found on the NPS School Board web page on npsk12.com. Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe believes NPS needs a 5-year master plan each year to establish when and how to fund repairs, renovations, and rebuilds. A big problem facing NPS is rapidly decreasing enrollment numbers. A consultant group was hired to do a study on which schools should be closed or repaired or combined. She noted their report was expected in December 2023 or January 2024. One member of the audience suggested that maybe decreasing classroom sizes is a better alternative to closing schools and overtaxing educators. Another audience member asked if there is a move to ask the city to improve the schools share of revenue sharing formula? Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe thinks that funds such as grants that are used to improve/run schools are drying up.

Next, City Councilman J.P. Paige stopped in to give our civic league some words of thanks. Mr. Paige thanked everyone for their support and especially the great communication he has received from residents. He reiterated that he will show up with the citizens to get done what his constituents want done in the community. He encouraged all to continue communicating with him about our needs.

Officer Joseph Brown gave the crime report, noting only one incident: a stolen vehicle in which the keys had been left inside. He also wanted to remind people with the upcoming holidays that larceny of packages will increase. He advised that everyone identify a way to hide packages from being visible from the street, if possible. A member of the audience asked about "abandoned" vehicles on neighborhood streets. Officer Brown said that the vehicle must meet certain criteria to be towed and or ticketed which includes expired registration and/or inspection or being inoperable. Another question was asked about rules regarding fires on private property, to which he responded that a resident may only burn seasoned wood in a fire pit between the hours of 4 p.m. and 12 a.m.

Burning of leaves or green wood is not permitted at any time.

Sherry McQueen from the Lamberts Point City Park Steering Committee spoke about a 15-acre plot on the Elizabeth River near Old Dominion University that the city has up for sale. The committee is trying to convince the city to turn it into a public park and are asking for support from the citizens of Norfolk. Our civic league was asked to send a letter of support. Second Vice President Albert made a motion to support the venture. A quorum then voted during the meeting to give our support to the committee. More information and an electronic petition is located at Lambertspointcitypark.org.

President Forehand then brought forth other civic league business. First, meeting minutes from the September and October were passed without edits. Next, she gave a formal thank you to Second Vice President Albert and her husband Mark Albert for heading another successful community picnic. President Forehand then reminded everyone about the upcoming Christmas dinner on December 2nd. Lastly, the slate of civic league officers was announced for the upcoming 2024 year and voted on. The slate put forth was: Debby Forehand, president; Kathy O'Hara, 1st vice president; Liz Albert, 2nd vice president; Sarah Ware, recording secretary; Lisa Gragg, correspondence secretary; KK German, treasurer; Suzanne Duncan, trustee; Dustin Wallace, first vice trustee; and, Edith Lizalde, second vice trustee. Sheryl Ghiloni made a motion to nominate the slate. A motion to vote was then made by Chris Haddox and seconded by Sheryl Ghiloni, a unanimous vote elected the slate.

With no further business, Dustin Wallace made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Liz Albert. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



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