



# Eastside Express

*Circulation 630 Households*

Volume 30 No. 3&4

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

## Consider volunteering for community clean-up efforts

Seven volunteers turned out for a community clean-up effort on Saturday, Feb. 18. Led by Bill Bunch, this effort typically involves volunteers 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. Our intrepid volunteers picked up 12 bags of trash, two tires and a large tarp on Feb. 18. Many thanks to: Bill Bunch, Jean Cope, Millie Coward, Patrick Dade, Chris Glaves, Lauren Vaughn, and Jeri Zurbuchen. Also, thank you to KK German who reports our results to the City of Norfolk.

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](mailto:riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com) or you can call or text KK at 757-714-2335 or Bill Bunch at 757-323-3661. (Continued on page 7)

## Guest speaker to share City of Norfolk's many recreational opportunities at March 13 meeting

Monday, March 13 is the date for the next meeting of the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League. The guest speaker for this event will be Kari Diop, bureau manager of Recreation and Community Wellness for Norfolk's Parks and Recreation Department. The meeting will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m.



Ms. Diop will share information about the many programs Norfolk Parks and Recreation offers its residents and will also discuss the city's plans for the future in the area of recreational opportunities.

Ms. Diop holds a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) designation and has worked in the field for more than 20 years, having also served the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach. She is active in the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS), and Women in Parks and Recreation non-profit (WiPaR).

A graduate of Old Dominion University, Ms. Diop holds a Master of Public Administration degree. When not working, she loves spending time at home with her husband, two daughters, and the family goldendoodle.

### Recycle Dates

March 7th, 21st, April 4th and 18th

Please put your recycling can out.

Street Sweeping: March 24th

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### March Meeting

**Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on March 13, at 7:00pm**

### Join our civic league Facebook conversation

One of the best ways of keeping 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* and then simply send us a request to join.

*Here's a little sample of what has been posted on that page recently:* An update on the city's plan to install speed cushions on Sellger Drive; low water pressure in parts of Wayside Manor and River Forrest Shores; a "found" pup; and an update on the city's street sweeping schedule.

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](mailto:riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com).

So, join in the conversation!

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### 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, March 13 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 we just heard or just catch up with our neighbors. Doing so over good food is an added bonus.

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**For Emergency Call 911**

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**Our Community Officers:**

**Officer Joseph Brown:**

**Cell-757-377-4750**

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

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*Presidents Corner*

How many projects are in the works that will impact our community? What is going to happen at the Easton Preschool property, the Light Rail expansion, Liv Development Apartments, the Bonaventure apartment project at the Smitty's Trailer Park property and don't forget Military Circle? Of course we are still anxiously anticipating the speed cushions. See our latest update on page 6.

As previously stated, the Equity for the Eastside Coalition has been asking the school board to hold onto the Easton Preschool property until the school needs are identified once all the proposed apartments are built and occupied. To date, our communication has gone unanswered which is unacceptable but, now that we have new school board representation and leadership our pleas will continue.

Keeping these things in mind, our new City Councilman JP Paige attended our February meeting and asked us to give him a list of our 5 most important things he can help us with. I know what my top 5 things are, but I want to hear from you. What's on top of your list of improvements or changes? My email is [debby4hand@gmail.com](mailto:debby4hand@gmail.com) and my phone # (757) 478-7585.

The Eastside Task Force is comprised of civic league presidents or representatives of each civic league on the eastside of Norfolk and representatives from various city departments. The next Eastside Task Force meeting is March 16 and I would like to share with those attending things affecting our community.

Finally, please email, text or call me when you have concerns, especially if those concerns relate to Norfolk city government. If you don't know whom to contact, I can help you with identifying the right department or individual.

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**Possible name change has been tabled**

Following discussion at the February general membership meeting, the matter of initiating a name change for the civic league has been tabled.

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**Many thanks to our dedicated newsletter carriers!  
Can you help by being a back-up carrier?**

If you enjoy reading the *Eastside Express* and find it helpful in keeping you abreast of what's happening in our three neighborhoods, then consider thanking a newsletter carrier! Our volunteer newsletter carriers make sure that every single home in River Forrest Shores, Wayside Manor and Easton Place gets a copy of our publication.

Right now, we are blessed because every route has a dedicated carrier assigned to it. However, we could use a few back-up people who can step in on occasion for those inevitable times when someone needs to take a vacation, travel out of town or deal with a pressing issue on the home or work front. If you are willing to do so, please send an email to Lisa Gragg at [happyjalapeno6@yahoo.com](mailto:happyjalapeno6@yahoo.com) or call her at 757-373-2658. In the meantime, hats off to the dedicated people listed below for pounding the pavement on behalf of the RFS/WM/EP Civic League:

**MANY THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER CARRIERS:**

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Abram Abramov</b>          | <b>Frank Linse</b>             |
| <b>Mark Albert</b>            | <b>Cheryl Marshall</b>         |
| <b>Clara Allen</b>            | <b>Charlie Nordstrom</b>       |
| <b>Dallas Brickhouse</b>      | <b>Kathy O'Hara</b>            |
| <b>Bill Bunch</b>             | <b>Lindsey Sotelo</b>          |
| <b>Catherine Carr</b>         | <b>Curtis Troy</b>             |
| <b>Joyce &amp; Wiley Hall</b> | <b>Sarah Ware</b>              |
| <b>Tyler Lemmon</b>           | <b>Brittany Wheeler</b>        |
|                               | <b>Liz &amp; Bill Wickline</b> |

**AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER CARRIERS:**

- Laurie Corvello**
- Sheila Stockton**





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2023

## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET UPDATE



New Listings  
IN JAN

DOWN  
**2.6%**  
FROM 2022

737 in JAN 2023  
from 757 in JAN 2022



Current Homes For Sale  
IN JAN

UP  
**42.9%**  
FROM 2022

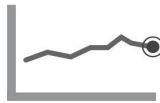
1,040 in JAN 2023  
from 728 in JAN 2022



Homes Sold  
IN JAN

DOWN  
**34.9%**  
FROM 2022

496 in JAN 2023  
from 762 in JAN 2022



Average Days on Market  
IN JAN

UP  
**11 Days**  
FROM 2022

23 in JAN 2023  
from 12 in JAN 2022



Median Sold Price  
IN JAN

UP  
**4.1%**  
FROM 2022

\$351,500 in JAN 2023  
from \$337,500 in JAN 2022



Sold to List Price  
IN JAN

DOWN  
**1.4%**  
FROM 2022

99.4% in JAN 2023  
from 100.8% in JAN 2022



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## Riverside Baptist Church

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

### Easter Egg Hunt

April 8, 2023, 10am to 12pm  
 "Please bring your own easter basket,  
 snacks will be served"



## 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

Dustin Wallace, Second Vice Trustee  
 Dustin\_l-wallace@yahoo.com  
 (210) 843-5059



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Saturday 8 AM - 12 PM

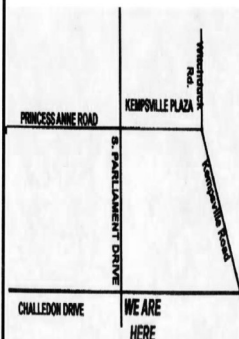
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# *New Beginnings:*

## *Join Us for the Journey*

*Ash Wednesday Service—Feb. 22nd, 6 PM*

*Bunny Breakfast/Egg Hunt—Apr. 1st, 9 AM*

*Palm Sunday Service—Apr. 2nd, 11 AM*

*Maundy Thursday Service—Apr. 6th, 6 PM*

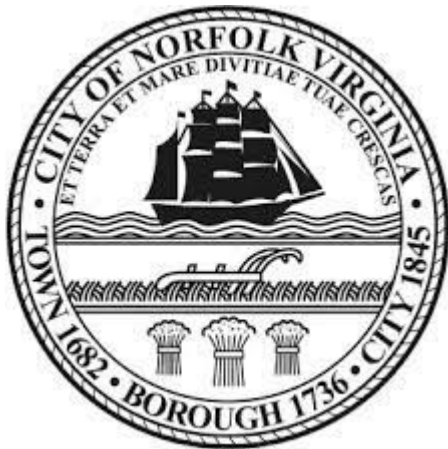
*Easter Sunday Service—Apr. 9th, 11 AM*

***Aldersgate Church*** 5767 Sellger Dr. Norfolk  
Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II

***AldersgateNorfolk.org***  
757-466-8999

### **Update on speed cushions**

Getting speed cushions installed on Sellger Drive has been a lengthy process, but there is some good news to share. The latest update from civic league President Debby Forehand is this: The project is slated to go out for bid soon. John Stevenson, director of transit for the City of Norfolk, has stopped short of giving residents a definitive schedule, but assures us the city is committed to finding a vendor who can make the installation happen as soon as possible. The civic league will continue to keep you updated on this important project.



### **Quick Serve Food Store**

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## Civic League Hosting Its Annual Membership Drive During April

The RSF/WM/EP Civic League will be hosting its annual membership drive during the month of April. A strong membership base is what keeps our civic league healthy and that is important because this civic league looks out for the best interests of our community. If you can spare some time in April to help the board by making a few phone calls to your neighbors or by knocking on their doors, it would be much appreciated. Your time and effort is truly an investment in the future of our neighborhoods.

Volunteers will be provided identifying badges and, of course, membership applications. It is the civic league's goal to contact anyone who needs to renew his or her membership or join for the first time. If you can help, please call Liz Albert, second vice president and membership chair, at 757-681-0131,

So why should you be a part of the RFS/WM/EP Civic League? Here are five good reasons:

1. A strong civic league is an advocate for its community and our civic league has done just that. Our efforts have spurred the city's promise to put speed cushions on Sellger Drive and have resulted in the city leadership forming an Eastside Task Force to help us stay abreast of plans for our area. President Debby Forehand is a member of this task force.
2. A civic league infuses its neighborhoods with a sense of community. It provides a gathering place for neighbors to meet neighbors. Besides holding regular meetings, the civic league also hosts special events such as a summer picnic, a Christmas party and an ice cream social.
3. A good civic league will keep its members updated on important resources and neighborhood news. Recent guest speakers have included Acting Economic Development Director Sean Washington, Director of Norfolk Cares Customer Service Halima Akar, and City Auditor Tammie Dantzer. The civic league also held two candidate forums last year - one for School Board candidates and the other for City Council candidates.
4. The civic league manages a robust Facebook page devoted to neighborhood news.
5. And finally, the civic league publishes this newsletter that is hand delivered to every household in our service area.

So what is the cost to join the civic league? Descriptively it is minimal when you consider what it delivers to residents. One year's membership is \$5 per person while a three-year membership is \$12 per person. So, if a neighbor knocks on your door this April, consider standing up for your civic league by becoming a member. If we miss you for some reason, you can always send your check to K.K. German, treasurer at 5924 Jerry Road. You can also pay via PayPal. If you have any questions or want to ask a board member to pick up your membership fee, email us at [riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com](mailto:riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com).

(Continued from page 1—Clean-up efforts)





## Norfolk Sheriff's Office



**Joe Baron**  
Sheriff/High Constable

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811 City Hall Ave  
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## Minutes

### General Meeting River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/ Easton Place Civic League January 9, 2023

At 7:02 pm Pastor Stephen Lewis started the meeting with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. He then read a note from the Ladies Group of the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse Church thanking the civic league for the opportunity to serve dinner at the Christmas Party in December. Pastor Lewis then swore in the new board that was in attendance; President Debby Forehand, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kathy O'Hara, Corresponding Secretary Lisa Gragg, Recording Secretary Sarah Ware, Treasurer KK German, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Suzanne Duncan.

President Forehand asked those in attendance for volunteers to help with the civic league in any way they can as we lost the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee to a job relocation and the head of the trash pick up to a move. Debby then introduced Halima Akar from the Norfolk Cares department for the City of Norfolk. Norfolk Cares was started in 2003 by the mayor and city manager at that time so city residents could report issues, like broken fire hydrants, bulk trash pickup and other concerns. New to their app is a real time update on the reported issue that is updated by the person or department that is handling the ticket. Contact information by the person who initiated the ticket is private. However, the comments made by that person is in a public space.

President Forehand introduced Officer Brown from the Norfolk Police department who gave his neighborhood crime report from November to present. There were 2 larcenies from automobiles in December and 2 reports of catalytic converters removed. Officer Brown reported that the traffic unit is aware of the speeding on Sellger Dr. but still does not have the manpower to post units on the street. Officer Brown also discussed a neighborhood watch and passed out fliers to promote safety and awareness. Officer Brown had suggestions for implementing:

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- operation identification for expensive items like laptops would include engraving these items, (the police department has an engraver that they will lend out to engrave your personal items)

Positions for neighborhood watch include:

- coordinator: point of contact for the police

- block captains: spread information to the neighborhood (i.e. phone tree)

- block watchers: Report to the block captains

- see something, say something

- ask solicitors for company ID and or license to solicit

(Continued on page 11)

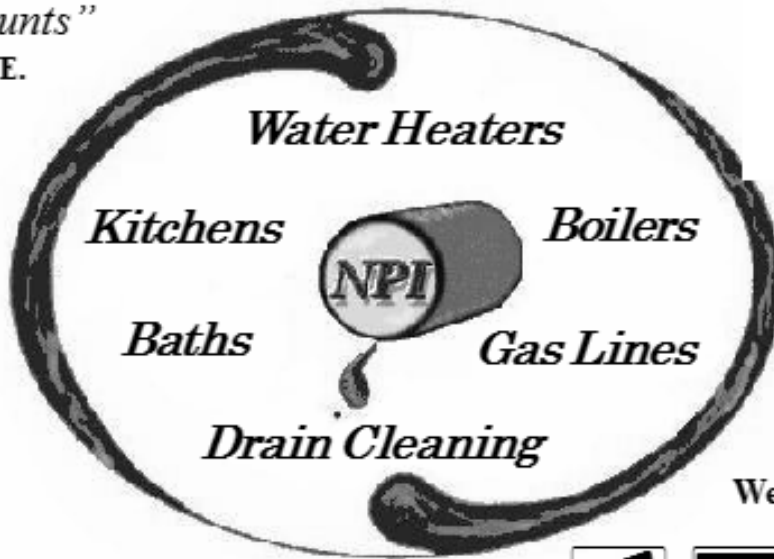
### **Next Civic League Board Meeting**

**Will be held in the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse fellowship hall at 6:30PM on April 3rd, 2023**

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Officer Brown stated that shot spotter was not up in Norfolk yet with no date as to when it may be active. This would be the precursor to the Real Time Crime center which has been discussed but again needs the shot spotter to be active to proceed.

Officer Brown gave advice for deterring burglars, which included making sure areas are well lit, trimming landscapes to reduce hiding places, locking doors and windows, and not giving out any personal information to strangers such as when you will be out of town or your work schedule.

President Forehand asked for volunteers for the neighborhood watch. The civic league is hoping to incorporate the neighborhood watch into the civic league.

President Forehand asked for an approval of minutes for November which were adopted with no amendments.

Treasurer KK German gave the financial report, briefly: we are on target for ad revenue, received \$263 over our expected budget for membership dues and an overage of \$2149 from the legal fund.

- current funds report as thus:

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Checking | \$522  |
| Savings  | \$3116 |

- As the checking account is low on funds, there would not be enough to cover current expenses.
- As there would not be enough to cover current expenses. A motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Suzanne Duncan to move \$500 from savings to checking to cover these expenses. The motion was seconded by a member and the motion was carried unanimously by the voting members.

President Forehand informed the members that a name change to the civic league will be a point of discussion at the next general meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>. She again asked for volunteers to head the adopt a spot cleaning crew and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee vacancies. The speaker scheduled for February will be Tammy Dantzler from the City of Norfolk Auditor's office speaking on waste, abuse and fraud and how to report it. Speaker for March will be Kari Diop, the Bureau Manager for Recreation and Community Wellness.

President Forehand called for any new business; none was given.

A motion to adjourn was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Suzanne Duncan and seconded by Treasurer KK German at 8:20 pm.

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**Minutes  
General Meeting  
River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place  
Civic League  
February 13, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Liz Albert, in the absence of President Debby Forehand, at 7:05 pm.

Pastor Stephen Lewis was called to give the invocation and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11—February Minutes)

Officer Brown was not in attendance. However, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Albert was informed that no crime was reported in the month of January.

Mrs. Albert called for a motion to nominate Dustin Wallace for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Suzanne Duncan made a motion which was seconded by several people in attendance. A vote was called for and by a unanimous decision Dustin was elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee. Pastor Lewis swore in the board members that were absent in January: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Liz Albert, Trustee Sue Foley, and newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee Dustin Wallace.

It was verified that the civic league had a quorum in attendance (a quorum is a minimum 15 voting members.)

Mrs. Albert introduced the scheduled speaker, Tammy Dantzer, the city auditor for the City of Norfolk. Mrs. Dantzer spoke on how she safeguards against fraud, waste, and abuse within departments of the City of Norfolk. There is a hotline in place per Virginia State Law for reporting such observations which can include: city employees using city equipment for personal gain, unethical use of authority, sleeping or excessive use of cell phones while on company time. The hotline is anonymous as is reporting incidents on the city's website or via email. The Phone number for reporting is (757) 664-4003, while the web address is [www.norfolk.gov/ReportFraud](http://www.norfolk.gov/ReportFraud).

Mrs. Albert then introduced Ward 4 City Councilman J.P. Paige who came to the meeting to thank everyone for their support in getting him elected and to share how we, as his constituents, can contact him. Mr. Paige was very curious how this area has so little crime to which a member replied we are a neighborly neighborhood and watch out for one another. Mr. Paige did not have anything to report on the Military Circle project at this time when asked by members. He did say that an arena may be located in the St. Paul Corridor area instead of Military Circle area. He would like our input on how he can better serve our community and left several business cards.

Items that our civic league needs to follow up on with Mr. Paige include:

- Status on the speed cushions

- Concerns about speeding on Sellger Dr.
- Paving for the rest of the neighborhoods, River Forrest Shores and Easton Place
- Status on the completion of the Riverside Apartments
- Status on the pumping station, i.e., what is this the responsibility of the developer? Should the developer's contract be checked?
- How to get a stop sign for the exit of the apartment complex onto Sellger Dr.

Mrs. Albert introduced Trustee Sue Foley to give the report on the budget that she and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Duncan audited. Trustee Foley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Duncan and Treasurer KK German found no discrepancies with the budget. However, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee Duncan did elaborate why the civic league reported a loss, which was due to the community picnic and Christmas dinner. The civic league paid for the majority of if not in entirety of the costs of these events. To solve this problem in the future the civic league will ask that the community provide dishes at these events to help offset the cost. Copies of the proposed budget were provided to the members in attendance. Recording Secretary Sarah Ware made a motion to ratify the budget; member Sheryl Ghiloni seconded the motion and a unanimous vote proceeded.

Mrs. Albert discussed the membership drive slated for April and encouraged volunteers to sign up on a sheet at the sign in table near the door.

Next topic to be discussed was about changing the name of our civic league to something shorter like Eastside Civic League. There were several people in attendance who did not like the idea of changing the name as they want to keep the identity of their neighborhood intact. No one spoke in favor of a name change.

Mrs. Albert brought up the need for a hospitality coordinator to organize refreshments for the general meeting. We are also in need of a web page content creator to write content for the webpage. No immediate volunteers were made known.

A call for new business was made by Mrs. Albert. None was made. 1st Vice Trustee Duncan made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Treasurer German at 8:10 pm.