



# Eastside Express

*Circulation 630 Households*

Volume 31 No. 3&4

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

### Civic League Hosting its Annual Membership Drive During April

If you are currently not a member or your membership has expired, a neighbor will be knocking on your door sometime during April to invite you to become a member or to renew. Be advised that the cost of membership has not changed in decades! One year's membership is just \$5 per person while a three-year membership is just \$12 per person. You can pay by cash, check, or even by PayPal. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact me by phone or email.

Finally, I will say this: Your civic league has produced tremendous results for this community. See page 3 where I list just a few accomplishments. To keep the civic league healthy, strong and working for you, we need a membership drive that makes continuation of our efforts possible. We are counting on you to see our value and invest accordingly.

Liz Albert  
Second Vice-President  
Membership Drive Chairperson  
757-681-0131 [albertfamilyva@aol.com](mailto:albertfamilyva@aol.com)

### **Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander to address civic league on Mar. 11**

Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander will be the guest speaker at the civic league's Monday, Mar. 11 meeting. The meeting will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, beginning at 7 p.m.



Mayor Alexander

An area of interest for us all should be the City of Norfolk's budget process and what we might expect for the coming fiscal year. City Council will adopt an expenditure plan in May. Consequently, March and April are prime times for residents to express opinions on what they would like to see in the city's operating and capital improvement budgets in the new fiscal year which will begin on July 1 and run through June 30, 2025. The operating budget contains money for salaries and programs like code enforcement, police protection, fire services, social services, libraries, city planning, etc. The capital improvement budget pays for infrastructure and building projects.

As members may recall, last fiscal year was a very trying one because our real estate assessments were inordinately high which meant most of us experienced steep tax increases. Our civic league led an initiative asking City Council to lower the real estate tax rate and to invest more capital money in our area of the city. The capital improvement budget for years has been downtown-centric. While we were not successful in getting the tax rate lowered, our message (Continued on page 2)

### **Recycle Dates**

March 19th and April 2nd, 16th, and 30th

Please put your recycling can out.

Street Sweeping: RFS and EP on March 22nd

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### **March Meeting**

**Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on March 11th, at 7:00 p.m.**

(Continued from page 1—Mayor Alexander) must have resonated because City Councilman Tommy Smigiel is now advocating that the tax rate be lowered this year. In addition, Mayor Alexander has informed our leadership that the capital improvement budget for FY-25 should contain some good news for Eastside Norfolk.

Mar. 11 is a great time to give the mayor input on what we would like to see included in the new operating and capital improvement budgets or conversely, what we believe should be cut. Perhaps we can even get an inkling of whether or not a real estate tax cut will be considered. Hope to see you there!

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**Civic league votes to support superintendent’s recommendation for the Easton Preschool building to house two secondary programs**

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, Norfolk Superintendent Dr. Sharon Byrdsong presented her operating budget proposal for the next fiscal year to the School Board. **As part of that proposal, she recommended the retrofitting of the vacant Easton Preschool to accommodate two secondary school programs - the Madison Alternative Center and Open Campus.** At the civic league’s Feb. 12 meeting those attending voted to support the recommendation following a presentation from Barbara Kimzey, Norfolk Public Schools’ chief of schools.

Please note this is a recommendation only at this time. The School Board will deliberate on the superintendent’s operating budget in the coming weeks and will most likely adopt a budget on or around March 20. The Board could decide to approve the budget with that recommendation in it or approve the budget without it. Should you wish to indicate your support (or not), you can email the School Board. Here is the page with all the School Board members’ addresses: <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/10356>.

Finally, your civic league has lobbied the School Board persistently to maintain this site as a school rather than turning it over to the City of Norfolk for future development. It is only because of the civic league board’s efforts that there is hope the school can be preserved. Should School Board approval happen in March, renovation work would start on the Easton building shortly thereafter.

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**Our Community Officers:**

**Officer Joseph Brown:**

**Cell-757-377-4750**

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### *Presidents Corner*

Happy Spring Y'all!

Is that wishful thinking? I hope not because I am ready for some warmer days and longer nights. Daylight Savings Time starts March 10!

With spring on the horizon, I would like to ask you to consider joining the civic league because our annual membership drive starts in April. Liz Albert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of our civic league, is the chairman of the membership drive. She has penned an article in this publication highlighting how the civic league has championed the welfare of the entire community and made progress not only for our three neighborhoods but also for the Eastside of the city. So, please when you hear the knock on your door, don't ignore it. Answer it! This civic league has perhaps the smallest membership fees in the entire city, and I dare say we have accomplished more than most. In short, your investment is needed if we are to continue to work on your behalf.

We are also grateful to the volunteers who have stepped forward for community cleanups, canvassing for our membership drives, delivering newsletters, bringing snacks to the general membership meetings and working at our special events. We could always use more volunteers and it's a great way to connect with neighbors, so don't be shy. These are also wonderful opportunities for students or scouts who need volunteer hours. However, we also realize many residents have jobs, families and other obligations that can interfere with in-person volunteerism. In these cases, we hope we can count on your financial support through membership. When everyone leans into the plow to support their community the benefits are enormous!

Remember, I am always just a phone call or email away when you have concerns or good ideas you want to share. My phone number is (757)478-7585 and my email address is debby4hand@gmail.com.

Besides working to plant the seeds of volunteerism, I rejoice because it's almost time to start planting our spring flowers!

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### **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 made speed cushions on Sellger Drive a reality; resulted in the inclusion of funds for the future Eastside Fitness and Wellness Center to be in the city's upcoming proposed budget; and have been the driving force for the anticipated retention of Easton Preschool by Norfolk Public Schools. This is a civic league that gets results, pure and simple.
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 include our Ward 4 city councilman J. P. Paige, and Chief of Norfolk Public Schools Barbara Kimzey.
4. The civic league manages a robust Facebook page devoted to neighborhood news. Also, our comprehensive website is scheduled to be launched in the near future.
5. And finally, the civic league publishes this newsletter that is hand delivered to every household in our service area.

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### **Brother, sister, can you spare a snack?**

The civic league is asking members to consider bringing a snack to the next civic league meeting (March 11) 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!



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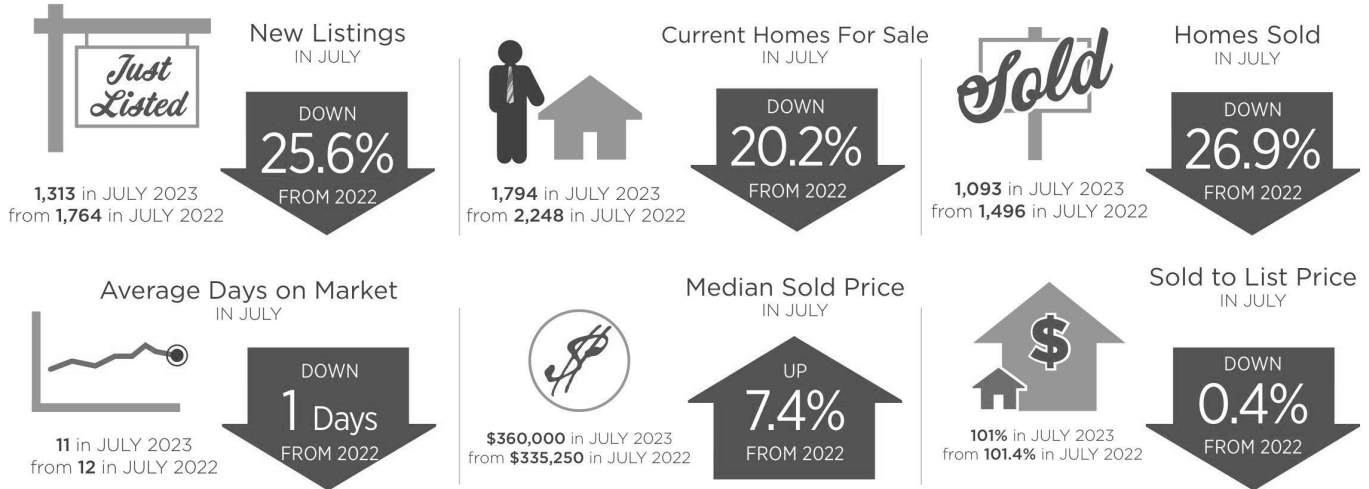


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 Sunday School: 9:45am  
 Worship Service: 11:00am

K.K. German, Treasurer  
[Kkgerman@gmail.com](mailto:Kkgerman@gmail.com)  
 (757)714-2335

Suzanne Duncan, Trustee  
[Suzanneduncan63@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanneduncan63@gmail.com)  
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Dustin Wallace, First Vice Trustee  
[dustin\\_l\\_wallace@yahoo.com](mailto:dustin_l_wallace@yahoo.com)  
 (210)843-5059

Edith Lizalde, Second Vice Trustee  
[edith.lizalde@yahoo.com](mailto:edith.lizalde@yahoo.com)  
 808-284-9311

### 2024 Board of Directors

Debby Forehand, President  
[Debby4hand@gmail.com](mailto:Debby4hand@gmail.com)  
 (757)478-7585

Kathy O'Hara, First Vice President  
[keohara@cox.net](mailto:keohara@cox.net)  
 (757)461-5252 - home

Liz Albert, Second Vice President  
[AlbertfamilyVA@aol.com](mailto:AlbertfamilyVA@aol.com)  
 (757)681-0131

Sarah Ware, Recording Secretary  
[Ceraann1@gmail.com](mailto:Ceraann1@gmail.com)  
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### **Norfolk Code Enforcement out in force to “educate” residents on what constitutes illegal parking in neighborhoods**

The Norfolk Code Enforcement Division has beefed up its staff in an effort to have a more efficient and effective approach to ensuring compliance in neighborhoods across the city. What is code enforcement you might ask? Code enforcement is the effort aimed at maintaining the safety and appearance of the city's existing structures and properties in all residential and commercial areas in Norfolk. The division addresses code violations through enforcement of the Virginia Maintenance Code and the city's property maintenance codes.

Because there are more personnel to tackle enforcement, you may have witnessed city staff out in our area taking photographs. In some cases citations have been issued. It is our understanding the first citations are efforts “to educate” residents on what is and is not acceptable in residential areas. If residents correct the violation that will hopefully solve the violation without a fine. Failure to address it means fines could result.

A main focus for code enforcement staff has been a crack down on illegal parking in our neighborhoods. The

city ordinance that deals with this is Section 25-293. It enforces parking restrictions for recreational vehicles, boats, trailers (including utility trailers) and commercial vehicles in residential districts.

The entire text of the regulations was posted recently on the civic league’s Facebook page. If you need a copy sent to you, send an email requesting a copy to President Debby Forehand at [debby4hand@gmail.com](mailto:debby4hand@gmail.com).

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### **Why Norfolk2050 is important to us!**

Norfolk2050 (known by the shorthand NFK20250) is the process the City of Norfolk is using to create a new Comprehensive Plan for the city. The existing plan is [plaNorfolk2030](#) and this latest effort will replace that version. NFK2050 will create a framework for how our city will grow and evolve over the next 25 years and will include numerous opportunities for residents and stakeholders to provide input on the future of our city.

Admittedly the development of a 25-year plan seems like an effort that is a long way off. So why should we care about it now? The answer: Yes, once adopted, NFK2050 **(Continued on page 7)**

(Continued from page 6—Norfolk 2050) will be used to guide the city’s decisions on many topics that affect the daily lives of residents and stakeholders, including (but not limited to): housing, arts and culture, transportation & mobility, economic development, natural/built environment, land use policies, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects and historic preservation.

Here in the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/ Easton Place area we know what it is like to be concerned about city planning for Eastside of Norfolk. We need to have a voice in what we want this area to look like and what we believe should be the guiding principles for land use because more development is slated for our area. Right now the city is silent on the fate of Military Circle.

We need to keep an eye on what is planned for that site. You can sign up to be notified about updates on NFK20250, including future public input opportunities, by visiting the city’s website: <https://www.norfolk.gov/list.aspx?ListID=537>.

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### **A salute to Rose Burroughs, a past president of our civic league**

Our civic league has proved strong and effective because over the years dedicated, able people have stepped forward to provide leadership. The current leadership has never lost sight of the fact that we stand on the foundation built by people who went before us, who loved this area and who did whatever they could to make it a fine place to live. One of these dedicated people was Rose Burroughs who served the River Forrest Shores/ Wayside Manor/ Easton Place Civic league as president from 1995 through 1997. Sadly, Rose, 91, passed away on January 24.

At the time of her death, she was living in River Forrest Shores. She was still supporting the civic league through advertising about her artwork in this publication. Rose was a talented, accomplished artist and through her ads invited residents to her home gallery for a look at her many paintings. While she did sell her work, she painted largely for the love of it.

Those who knew Rose well, including friends who worked with her through the civic league, described her as a person who knew how to get things done. She had a way of leading that made people happy to do what she asked. When she moved to Florida for a while, not surprisingly she became president of the homeowners association there. Her daughter, Benita Hardison, eventually

talked her into coming home to Norfolk, much to the delight of neighbors and friends who had missed her “can do” spirit.

Maria Davidson, also a past president of the civic league, had many occasions to work with Rose. Maria, her husband Lindell and Rose worked together to ensure our three neighborhoods received the proper amount of attention from the City of Norfolk. This common goal also forged a strong friendship. Maria had this to say about Rose: “From the first day we met her, we were “friends.” And I believe that is the way she approached the world. There was always sweetness there; I loved that little giggly-chuckle. It can’t be duplicated, but it is unforgettable in my memory. It was amazing all that she accomplished in her personal creativity. I have a couple paintings she did, and the more I look at them, the more I am amazed how perfectly done was each stroke of the brush. They say that the Chinese paint each stroke with “permanence and perfection,” and I believe she painted that way. Yet she could run a meeting of the civic league with efficiency and clarity and get things done. Underneath that apparent softness, there was a determination to “do good,” which would not be thwarted or turned aside. We were so fortunate to have met her early in our life in this community, because she set the “tone” that has made our life here so bountiful.”



## Norfolk Sheriff's Office



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Sheriff/High Constable

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**Treasurer's Budget Report**  
**RFS/WM/EP Civic League**  
**For the month ended January 31, 2024**

	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Current Month Actual</b>	<b>Year to date Actual</b>	<b>Over (under) Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Newsletter Ads	1,475	155	155	(1,320)
Dues	1,300			(1,300)
Other (interest and donations)	265	0	0	(265)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>(2,885)</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Newsletter Printing *	1,575	264	264	(1,311)
Marketing *	254			(254)
Membership Drive	25			(25)
Postage/Office Supplies	30			(30)
Meeting Refreshments	20			(20)
Door Prizes	90	90	90	-
CL Meeting Hall	315			(315)
Zoom purchase *	150			(150)
Webmaster Training *	762			(762)
Federation Dues	20			(20)
Awards	100			(100)
Special Events	1,800			(1,800)
Incorporation fees	25			(25)
Board Meeting Hall	100			(100)
[1] Other *	37			(37)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>5,303</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>(4,949)</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(2,263)</b>	<b>(199)</b>	<b>(199)</b>	<b>2,064</b>
Add back Block grant received from the city fall of 2023	2,073	264	264	(1,809)
[2]				
<b>Net income (Outflow)</b>	<b>(189)</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>255</b>

<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Trust			<b>Total cash</b>
	Checking	Reserve (Savings)	Account (CD)	
1/1/2024	2,707.74	2,617.52	11,992.31	17,317.57
<b>2024 year to date (from above column)</b>				<b>(199.05)</b>
				<u>17,118.52</u>
1/31/2024	2,508.69	2,617.52	11,992.31	<u>17,118.52</u>

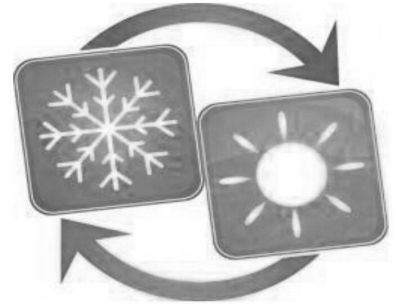
[1] Other: Paypal fees + website domain

[2] The civic league receive \$2500 from the city in November 2023 to offset marketing and outreach efforts of the civic league. The asterisked (\*) items indicate the categories the civic league has received a grant to assist with. \$2073.40 is being allocated to 2024 and therefore the net outlay of the civic league for 2024 is -\$189.46.

KKG 2/15/2024



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**General Meeting Minutes**

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

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

**January 13, 2023**

President Debby Forehand called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Second Vice President Liz Albert was called to perform the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest speaker City Councilman J.P. Paige was asked to swear in the new civic league board members. President Debby Forehand, First Vice President Kathy O’Hara, Second Vice President Liz Albert, Recording Secretary Sarah Ware, Treasurer KK German, Trustee Suzanne Duncan, First Vice Trustee Dustin Wallace, and Second Vice Trustee Edith Lizalde.

The main speaker for the evening, City Councilman for Ward 4, J.P. Paige was introduced. Mr. Paige has been in office for a year this month and wanted to again express his gratitude for our support and remind the citi-

zens he is working hard for us in his position. He had been sick over the holiday but did not want to cancel his speaking commitment because he wanted us to know he shows up for us. His motto this year is “Just Show Up”, and he will continue to do so.

Mr. JP Paige wanted to address a few questions that had been emailed to him previously. One was regarding the missing speed cushion on the west bound lane of Sellger Dr. The funds to provide the speed cushions ran out of money and the budget does not currently have this item scheduled for procurement. He will ask that it be added to the next budget. He also wanted to let us know that the eastside will be getting a Health and Wellness facility. The date for this has not been set, but it will resemble the facility going in at Wards Corner. This is in part thanks to our own president, Mrs. Forehand, as she and other board members have been advocating with City Council and had sought Mr. Paige’s assistance to get this on the budget. Mr. Paige also recommended to residents that we begin pushing for a library now and not to wait. (Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10) Another issue Mr. Paige wanted to make us aware of is that JANAF shopping center will be adding bushes to the parking lots to discourage car meets and “donuts” from occurring. He has asked city officials for more high-end housing to be built in the highest elevation of Norfolk. The old Lonestar and Boston Market locations do not have any definite plans at this time.

Mrs. German made a comment that the bags of trash from our neighborhood clean up crew have not been being picked up by the city in a timely manner. Mr. Paige said he would look into that as well. He also recommended the civic league contact the apartment complex management about assistance in this regard. Ms. O’Hara also mentioned that our members do a lot to keep our neighborhood looking nice, but there is now a lot of trash on the feeder road/overpass that connects Curlew Dr. and Poplar Halls Park. To this Mr. Paige said that the city is very short staffed and is trying to hire for many positions, including city maintenance and 911 operators. He added that if residents knew of anyone looking for a good job to please look at City of Norfolk job openings. The new city manager wants to get people into jobs and training sooner than they have been, especially for 911 operators.

He will also look into the future of Easton Pre-school property and speak with School Board Chair Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe. Mr. Paige spoke about a mentorship program he is heading where mentors go into the schools to show kids that adults care and they too can make something of themselves. He is looking for volunteers, men and women of all races and backgrounds to help out.

Next Mr. Paige discussed the homeless population in Norfolk, especially on the eastside. While St. Mary’s has been housing homeless persons for the last three weeks due to cold weather, these shelters fill up leaving some people no where to go. He wants people to pay attention and if someone looks out of place, please call the non-emergency police to have them checked on. Sometimes these people are not actually homeless but suffering from dementia and may be lost.

Lastly, he wanted to make sure we were all aware of a free bookstore at JANAF shopping center next to the Woodcraft store. They are in need of donations and would

love for more people to visit. Mr. Paige then addressed the news that the casino was not on the agenda for the city council meeting and all he would say on that is that “Norfolk is the best and deserves the best”. It was mentioned that the architectural review board had rescheduled their discussion to January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Officer Joseph Brown was not able to attend the meeting and gave the report to Mrs. Forehand. The shooting that occurred on Faulk Road had been closed and an arrest had been made. There was one stolen vehicle, but it was returned, possibly borrowed by a family member.

Mrs. Forehand then brought to order civic league business that needed attending. First, meeting minutes from November were passed without edits and the financials printed in the November newsletter were accepted without question. Mrs. Forehand also wanted to acknowledge two standout volunteers, Bill Bunch and Denise Deitrich from the trash brigade.

With no further business, Mrs. Albert made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. O’Hara. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

**General Meeting Minutes**  
**River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League**  
**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
**February 12, 2024**

Second Vice President Liz Albert called meeting to order at 7 pm. and proceeded with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The main speaker for the evening, Dr. Barbara Kimsey, chief of schools for Norfolk Public Schools. In that role, Dr. Kimsey is in charge of all Norfolk Public Schools and sites. She began to discuss Superintendent Dr. Sharon Byrdsong’s recent recommendation to the School Board that Madison Alternative School and Open Campus move to the old Easton preschool facility. She also expressed the building would be perfect for their needs as only about 30-40 students are enrolled in the Madison program  
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11—Minutes) including both middle and high school students and about 15 students in the Open Campus program. Easton preschool building is optimal for keeping the two programs separate because it has separate entrances. Madison Alternative schedule runs on the high school time of 7 to 2 pm and the Open Campus students only meet with instructors as needed. Much of their work is done online. The move for Madison and Open Campus to Easton is not a done deal. The School Board will vote on this recommendation, as part of its annual operating budget for next school year, in March. A motion was made by Mrs. Sheryl Ghilioni and seconded by Mr. Dustin Wallace that we support the move. The quorum in attendance at this meeting voted in favor of supporting the move and that Mrs. Albert speak on our behalf of the civic league at the next School Board meeting.

Mr. Wallace gave a brief audit report of the budget and thanked Mrs. German for her exceptional organizational skills with the civic league's financials. Mr. Rick Thomas made a motion to approve the budget and Mrs. Sarah Ware seconded. The quorum voted unanimously to approve.

Mrs. Albert appealed to the audience to help support the membership drive. She explained that the civic league does a lot for our community including getting the city to listen to us when we need our neighborhood streets cleaned, speed cushions to slow speeders on our streets, petition for community improvements such as a recreation center for our side of the city, and community

engagement such as our annual picnic and Christmas dinners. Please help support the civic league through the membership drive so we can continue to bring you a beautiful community and keep you up to date on our side of the city.

Officer Joseph Brown reported one incident in the townhouses of a stolen vehicle which was recovered. Overall crime in the city is down. However, larceny from autos in shopping centers has picked up. He asked that residents please lock their doors and do not leave vehicles running. A member of the audience asked about a pedestrian who was hit by a car on Newtown Rd. The pedestrian was killed, and the incident is under investigation. There was also a question about S.W.A.T. incident at the apartment complex. Officer Brown noted the police were conducting a search warrant. Another question was raised about noise ordinances. A newer noise ordinance was put into place to make it easier for the police to write a summons that involves yardage between the sound and the reporter. Officer Brown also wanted to make sure people were aware that the City of Norfolk has hired several code enforcement officers that will be going around the city at all hours to remind citizens of code violations. This is a city-wide effort after a shortage of employees, and no one should feel singled out.

With no further business, Ms. Kathy O'Hara made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rick Thomas. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

### **RFS/WM/EP Civic League Membership Application**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone and email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership options:** \_\_\_\_ number of \$5 one-year membership(s)  
\_\_\_\_ number of \$12 three-year membership(s)

Please make check payable to **RFS/WM/EP Civic League** and mail to KK German, Treasurer, 5924 Jerry Road, Norfolk, VA 23502

If you choose to use PayPal, please use the QR code or email KK German at [riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com](mailto:riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com) and request a PayPal invoice.

