



Eastside Express

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

Join us for the annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Party

The annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Party will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 beginning at 6 p.m. at the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse on Sellger Drive. This event is named in memory of the civic league’s longtime refreshment coordinator who celebrated all holidays with style and made sure we had plenty of goodies to eat at every meeting. Certainly, she will be with us in spirit!

The civic league is catering the dinner (which includes meats, rolls and side dishes) and is asking residents to help out by bringing the desserts. As part of the evening’s festivities, there will be a Dirty Santa gift exchange. For those who don’t know how Dirty Santa works here’s the scoop: Participants bring a wrapped or a bagged gift. All participants draw a number (the numbers equal the number of gifts available) and when their number is called proceed to pick a gift from the gift table or steal a gift from someone who has chosen before them. A gift can be stolen only twice. On the second steal it stays with that individual. We are recommending that the spending limit for gifts be \$20.

So mark your calendars and plan to attend because not only will the food be delicious, but it also will be a hoot to steal from your neighbors legally.

Norfolk School Board Vice Chair Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe to address civic league on Nov. 13

Norfolk School Board Vice Chair Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe will be the guest speaker for the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League’s Monday, Nov. 13 meeting. The meeting will take place at Aldersgate United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. If public education in this city is of interest to you, then this meeting is a “must attend.” Following her presentation, Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe will take questions from attendees.



Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe

Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe was first elected in Nov. 2022 for Ward 4 and began her School Board service in Jan. 2023. A native of Chicago, she has been a Norfolk resident for more than 30 years. She currently serves as the executive assistant to the superintendent of Newport News Public Schools and the Clerk of the School Board. She began her career in public education as a substitute teacher and a parent volunteer. Community service is important to Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Gethsemane Community Fellowship Church, and the Beacon Light Civic League.

Mrs. Moore-Buffaloe earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Norfolk State University and her Master’s Degree from Strayer University. She is married and has two adult children who are both graduates of Norfolk Public Schools.

Recycle Dates
November 14th, 28th and December 12th, 26th
Please put your recycling can out.
Street Sweeping: December 22nd

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November Meeting
Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on November 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Webmaster needed! Civic League will pay training costs

The civic league is currently recruiting for a webmaster to help design and launch a website for our community. Recently the civic league was successful in winning a grant from the Norfolk Neighborhood Services Office that will pay the costs for training a webmaster.

Tidewater Community College (TCC) offers website training and the civic league budgeted in the grant to pay for such training. President Debby Forehand notes that a goal is to secure a commitment from a volunteer to enroll in this training which will start Jan. 8, 2024. The class will be conducted online versus being an on-campus class. However, if a volunteer is aware of another institution offering a similar class, the funds may be able to be used accordingly. A civic league representative would just have to secure the requisite approval from the Norfolk Neighborhood Services Office. (Continued on page 3)



Norfolk mayor appoints civic league's 2nd VP to Hospital Board of Commissioners

RFS/WM/EP Civic League 2nd Vice President Liz Albert was recently sworn in as a member of the Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital Board of Commissioners. She will be filling the unexpired term of a former commissioner and will serve through April 30, 2024 at which time she will be eligible for reappointment. Mrs. Albert was appointed by Mayor Dr. Kenneth C. Alexander.

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Presidents Corner

Our civic league is continuing its mission to deliver equity for Eastside Norfolk.

Happy Fall Y'all!

It may be fall, but we are quickly heading into the Holiday Season! What does that mean to the civic league? The answer: It's time to elect officers for 2024 at the November meeting. While we have a full slate of officers to be nominated, keep in mind many of these people would be happy to take a seat if someone else would like any of these positions. Those people who have agreed to run for office are: Debby Forehand- President; Kathy O'Hara-1st V. President; Liz Albert-2nd V. President; KK German-Treasurer; Lisa Gragg-Corresponding Secretary; Sarah Ware-Recording Secretary; Suzanne Duncan-Trustee, Dustin Wallace-1st V. Trustee and Edith Lizalde-2nd V.Trusee. A special thank you to all who stepped up to serve our community.

Speaking of community advocacy, about 7 years ago the civic league started working with the Norfolk Transportation Department to find traffic/speeding mitigation for Sellger Drive and Kidd Boulevard. Since Sellger Drive is divided with a median, easy mitigation options such as stop signs were not deemed viable by the professionals, so the only real option was speed cushions. What a ride it's been, but thanks to work of our neighbors, Lauren Vaughan and Stephanie Lopez, who knocked on doors to obtain the city's required signatures (80 percent) from the residents living on Sellger Drive, WE HAVE SPEED CUSHIONS. While some of the residents living back in the neighborhood are not fond of this solution, it appears Sellger Drive is no longer the favorite cut through for non-residents.

The Easton Pre-School property is next on the radar and we will need community engagement once we know when there will be a discussion and decision by the School Board regarding the future of this property. Stay tuned!!

ALSO SAVE THE DATE- DECEMBER 2nd 6 P.M. – CHRISTMAS DINNER- EAST COAST GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE

Finally, we hope to see you all November 13 at our meeting where our Ward 4 School Board

representative, Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe will be our speaker.

City of Norfolk Awards \$3,000 in Grants

The River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League has some good news to share! We have secured \$3,000 in Block-by-Block Neighborhood Pride Grants. The City of Norfolk's Neighborhood Services Office is the granting organization.

The civic league was awarded two grants. One was for \$500 to help underwrite costs for the community picnic. The other was for \$2,500 and is designed to help increase and enhance the civic league's communications outreach. Our goal is to expand on the power of community volunteerism and advocacy.

The \$2,500 grant will help pay the considerable costs of publishing a newsletter and flyers. It will also underwrite banners that can be used to advertise special events and will help the civic league build and launch a website. In fact, the civic league is searching now for a webmaster to help that effort and will pay the training costs for a volunteer webmaster. See the details in an accompanying news article in this edition of the *Eastside Express*.

The city's grants process is a competitive one. To secure the funding the civic league had to complete and submit detailed applications. This is just another example of how dedicated volunteers from the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League work to support our neighborhoods.

(Continued from page 2—Webmaster) To be eligible to take advantage of this offer, the volunteer would need to do the following:

- Commit to one-year of volunteer webmaster service (the year commitment will start after successful completion of the course)
- Deliver a finished website by Summer 2024
- Handle all registration with TCC (or other institution)
- Pass the class
- Have reliable and daily access to a computer and Internet service as this is an online class

Those interested should contact President Debby Forehand at 757-478-7585 or via debby4hand@gmail.com.



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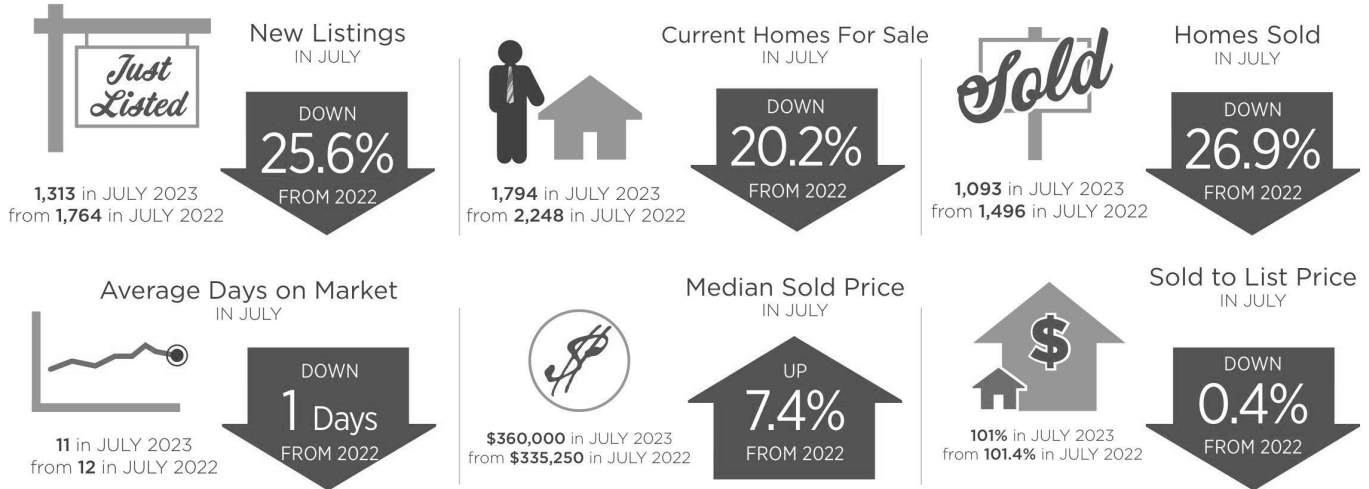


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2023

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET UPDATE



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

2023 Board of Directors

Debby Forehand, President

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 (757)478-7585

Kathy O'Hara, First Vice President

keohara@cox.net

(757)461-5252 - home

Liz Albert, Second Vice President

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Lisa Gragg, Corresponding Secretary

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K.K. German, Treasurer

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Susan Foley, Trustee

graywolf_23462@yahoo.com
 (757)455-6689 - home

Suzanne Duncan, First Vice Trustee

suzanneduncan63@gmail.com
 (757) 719-8529

Dustin Wallace, Second Vice Trustee

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A PLACE FOR YOU

Worship Experience — 11:00am

Minutes

River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place

Civic League

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

September 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Forehand at 7 p.m.. Prayer was led by Clara Allen.

Officer Blackwell was the resource officer for the night, covering for Officer Brown. In July there was a larceny from an auto and a stolen car. There is an ongoing investigation into a rape on Kidd Blvd. It was noted this was not a matter of a stranger rape, but other details could not be shared for matters of confidentiality. Questions about riding a dirt bike on the street were asked as well as a request for more police representation and giving tickets to speeders. The question of a residence being used as a business was asked. This is a code violation and not a police issue unless something illegal is happening at that residence as well.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Norfolk Office of Resilience had representatives on hand to present information on the resilience project. This project started after Hurricane Sandy with federal funds. The study was to look at coastal storms on the east coast. After this large study a recommendation for feasibility studies was made to address flooding issues. This project, known as Coastal Risk Storm Management or CRSM, was intended to prepare for a major storm event. It was a \$3 million study over 3 years with 3 levels of review and was on time and on budget. In 2019 it made recommendations for flood risk reduction and management. In 2019 a large infrastructure bill was approved based on the study.

It has 5 phases. Phase 5 is the non-structural program and is a 10-year program. The city can do structural measures to protect at-risk areas (such as a wall), but want one way to offer protection is to increase resilience in our neighborhoods. There will be hundreds of basement fills (yes, we have homes in Norfolk with basements) and house raising. The cost will be borne by the City of Norfolk rather than the homeowner. Homeowners are not required to participate. Elevations wouldn't be dramatic, but they would be impactful. Before any activity occurs (Continued on page 9)

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

	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	Year to date Actual	Over (under) Budget
Income				
Newsletter Ads	1,415	80	1,395	(20)
Dues	1,500	12	1,247	(253)
Interest earned	260		198	(62)
Donations and Other			9	9
Total Income	3,175	92	2,849	(326)
Disbursements				
Newsletter Printing	1,550	61	1,270	(280)
Marketing		125	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	40	243	(1,607)
Incorporation fees	25		25	-
Board Meeting Hall	100		100	-
Other [1]	55	1	11	(44)
Total Disbursements	4,180	227	2,219	(1,961)
Net Income (Outflow)	(1,005)	(135)	630	1,635

[1] \$10.09 Paypal fees

	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)				629.94
				<u>15,997.00</u>
10/31/2023	1,454.60	2,617.19	11,925.21	<u>15,997.00</u>

KKG 11/1/2023

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(Continued from page 6—September Minutes) there would be a meeting with the homeowners and an assessment of the property to determine eligibility. Eligibility will be affected by the condition of the structure such as termites present or damage from them or if there is any water damage or foundation issues.

The Office of Resilience is working on a public dashboard to determine if a structure is in the program and how high it would have to be raised. As the process moves along, the homeowner would learn more about their house structure, such as if it was ADA compliant and had mobility needs. All structures must become ADA compliant to be part of the program. It is important for them to work around school age children. The hope and intent is to work around the school year. In the Broad Creek area there will be a surge barrier – light rail is close to where they would like to put up the floodwalls. The pilot phase will be at Willoughby as that has the most at-risk structures.

Houses that are at a risk of high water flooding have already been identified in our neighborhoods. Some are on the waterfront and some are not. There are 158 homes in our area identified as at-risk for flood damage over the next 50 years.

During the question and answer period, there were questions around impacting personal property tax, where residents would go during displacement and how that expense would be covered. These are items the city is working through. They are trying very hard to find creative solutions to address all areas of cost.

In other general business: The May and June minutes were accepted as presented. Suzanne Duncan made a motion to accept the new bylaws, seconded by Liz Albert. The motion was passed by all active members present.

The Slate of Officers for the Civic League will be presented at the October General meeting. Attendees were asked to please consider running for one of the positions.

Mrs. Albert gave a picnic update: Going to be great, grills, cooks, bounce house for the kids and a corn hole competition are planned. The tournament will start at noon. She counseled potential competitors to please be early to register. She also asked them to bring a chair and a side dish. The civic league will provide the meat, rolls and plastic ware.

It was also noted the Christmas dinner is planned for Dec. 2.

On the subject of the Easton Preschool property, the civic league board has been unable to get a commitment from the School Board whether or not the school system will keep the property. The next scheduled School Board meeting would be Sept. 20 and everyone in the

civic league was encouraged to attend to show their support for keeping the property in the schools' control. A motion was made by Mrs. Albert and seconded by Mrs. Duncan to adjourn the meeting and passed by all. Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Minutes

River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League Aldersgate United Methodist Church October 9, 2023

President Debby Forehand called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Terry Haddock was called to do the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members in attendance included, Debby Forehand, president; Kathy O'Hara, 1st vice president; Liz Albert, 2nd vice president; Sarah Ware, recording secretary; KK German, treasurer; Sue Foley, trustee; Suzanne Duncan, 1st vice trustee; and Dustin Wallace, 2nd vice trustee.

Mrs. Forehand introduced Norfolk Police Chief Mark Talbot.

Chief Talbot has been in his current position for about six months and has served in the corrections field since 1994. He noted that in reports the overall violent crimes have decreased in our city. A major issue the police department is facing is the popularization of TikTok challenge crimes. These crimes are especially difficult as they spread via the internet from other cities rapidly. Chief Talbot next addressed the vacancy of police officers and he pointed to fallout from COVID and the ability to work from home. Many officers were able to make transitions into other jobs during that time leaving a vast staffing problem. Many companies are facing similar problems with staffing, and this is an issue that communities will be facing for years to come.

Chief Talbot then discussed how he develops plans to address crime in the city. In this respect he takes it on a month-by-month basis and adjusts according to what is and is not working to reduce crime. He feels that for the police to do a more effective job they need the trust of the residents. This is what he calls the legitimacy of the police department. He is working on ways to make sure the public develops this trust by treating people fairly, with respect and going out into the communities and talking with residents. By holding themselves to objective standards, department personnel can be better at their jobs in reducing crime, keeping property safe and saving lives. Chief Talbot looks at different strategies including risk-based (Continued on page 10)



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(Continued from page 9—October Minutes) problem solving and has adopted evidence-based approaches for crime reduction. This comes from the thinking that policing is complex and requires complex thinking, studying of books and reports and education for all to achieve his goals of a safer city by reducing crime. One such strategy is controlling the impact players. Impact players are the small portion of the population that are committing the majority of the most serious crimes.

Chief Talbot recognizes that not all people committing crimes need to be placed in jail, but may need other help. The Norfolk Police Department has built systematic responses where officers are connected to other agencies to get those people the help they need, whether it is homeless shelters or hospital care to only name two. He went on to say that the police need the help of the citizens they serve to do their job better. The police cannot go into a neighborhood and just know what is needed for the residents. Communication is vital to build a relationship between the department and the residents and in that relationship both groups can work towards a common goal. Lastly, Chief Talbot voiced the importance of leadership to create a better city.

An audience member asked about the Real Time Crime Center and expressed that several people in communities where the cameras will be placed feel this is an invasion of their privacy. Chief Talbot explained that building trust with the city and having transparency is of upmost importance. Technology has pretty much taken over our lives and many people are still trying to adjust to that reality. Whereas yes, rights could be violated with the technology, but again trust needs to be established with the technologist so that this will not happen. If this hard-won trust, that can take years to develop, is broken by violating rights then trying to earn it back will take even longer. The civic league was reassured that cameras will be placed in areas with the highest crime rates, the highest responded calls by police officers and at the ingress and egress of those areas. There are cameras that capture license plates, but do not photograph/film drivers. These cameras will not take the place of police officers as they will still need to respond to any situation. The cameras are just a tool to aid in them in doing their jobs more effectively and efficiently. In the end the police department will still need citizens to communicate with them and provide vital information. (Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10—October Minutes) Next, Officer Joseph Brown updated the civic league on the monthly crime report for our neighborhood. There was one count of residential burglary on Jerry Road, which is still under investigation; one count of larceny in a building; and one stolen vehicle where the keys were left in it on East McGinnis Circle. He also reported that vehicle larceny was down across the city from about 150 in June to 78 in September. Catalytic converter theft appears in waves and is currently down. The state legislature has passed that it is now a felony which may have affected the thefts.

Mrs. Forehand then reported that the light rail expansion environmental study has been put on hold at least until 2024. It is suspected that they are waiting to see what will happen with Military Circle Mall area. There was a discussion on the civic league Facebook page as to whether or not we should vote on usage of the remaining 15 acres at the Lambert's Point Golf space however, it was determined that we do not have enough information to vote at this time. It was also suggested that we organize a tour of the space to determine if the space would make a good park considering it is located next to a sewage treatment facility. Mrs. Forehand updated the civic league that the two grants she applied for to help offset costs for our civic league should be approved soon. One is to help pay for our community picnic and the other is to help pay for newsletters, fliers and other marketing for the civic league.

Mrs. Albert reminded the civic league that the community picnic would occur Saturday, Oct. 14.

Lastly, Sue Foley announced the slate for the 2024 board members. President, Debby Forehand; 1st Vice President, Kathy O'Hara; 2nd Vice President, Liz Albert; Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Gragg; Recording Secretary, Sarah Ware; Treasurer, KK German; Suzanne Duncan; Trustee; and Dustin Wallace, 1st Vice Trustee. Trustee Sue Foley will be stepping down at the end of the year, leaving a need for a 2nd Vice Trustee.

Mrs. Forehand asked if there was any new business, as there was none, she asked for a motion to end the meeting. Mrs. Duncan made the requested motion to adjourn the meeting. 1st Vice President Kathy O'Hara seconded it. The meeting concluded at 7:59 p.m.

Harry Jones Community Picnic provided fun, food and festivities!

The annual Harry Jones Community Picnic, hosted on Saturday, Oct. 28, featured good weather, tasty food and great fellowship. Besides a competitive corn hole tournament, the fun included a bounce house and a scavenger hunt for kids, a drop-in visit from Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Spider Man, and a fire engine that children and adults alike could climb aboard on. Residents were also

happy to host Mayor Kenneth Alexander who dropped by to thank us for our community service!

Winners of the corn hole tournament were: First place, Mark and Adam Smiley; Second place, Larry Smiley and John Catrell; and third place, Amber and Liz Miller. Many thanks to these folks for their support: Trinity Lizalde, Sally Connors; and Bill Bunch for manning the grills; Artie Bulman of A.J.'s Trophies for organizing the tournament; and Sarah Haddox for hosting the scavenger hunt for the kids. Also, appreciated is the leadership of Riverside Baptist Church for hosting the event. Throughout the day there were volunteers who helped along the way. We may not have room to thank them all here, but know we think you are part of what makes this community great!



Winning first place in the corn hole tournament were Mark and Adam Smiley.



Taking second place in the tournament were Larry Smiley and John Catrell.



Liz and Amber Miller won third place.

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