



Eastside Express

Circulation 630 Households

Volume 30 No. 9&10

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

Fall picnic planned for Saturday, Oct. 14

Mark your calendars because the RFS/WM/EP Civic League will host its annual Harry Jones Fall picnic on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., on the grounds of Riverside Baptist Church! The civic league will provide the meats — hamburgers and hotdogs — and the drinks (water and sodas). Neighbors, please plan to bring a side dish or a dessert to share.

Once again the civic league will be hosting a cornhole tournament. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded. Competitors must be at least 12-years-old to participate. The tournament will start around 12 p.m. so those who want to compete should arrive at the picnic in time to be included.

For the younger children, a bounce house will be on site. We also hope to have other games available as well. Expect more information via an October flyer. In the meantime, dust off your favorite recipes and plan to join your neighbors for a good time!

Recycle Dates

September 19th, October 3rd and 17th

Please put your recycling can out.

Street Sweeping: September 22nd

Why isn't a flood wall being proposed for our area?

Staff from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Norfolk's Office of Resilience to address flood wall and other prevention measures at Sept. 11 meeting

In June of this year, the City of Norfolk signed a \$2.6 billion agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) that will result in the construction of an 8-mile flood wall around the riverfront, from near the

Campostella Bridge to Lambert's Point. These boundaries mean much of the westside, including downtown Norfolk and its adjoining neighborhoods, will ultimately be protected from the increasing threat of flooding during major storms. But what about the eastside of Norfolk? Why isn't a flood wall planned here? Are there other flood prevention strategies that will be put into place to protect our area?

Get the answers to questions like these by attending the Monday, Sept. 11 civic league meeting. We will be hosting a delegation from the USACOE and the City of Norfolk's Resilience Office. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 5767 Sellger Drive.

The delegation will include: Kyle Spencer, chief resilience officer, Matthew Simons, Norfolk's deputy resilience officer, who will lead the presentation, and these staff members from the USACOE: Kristin Mazur, coastal storm risk program manager; Michelle Hamor, chief of planning and policy branch; and Kathy Hanes and Zach Martin of the environmental analysis section. Mr. Martin is the chief of that section. Having USACOE staff on hand to answer our questions will be helpful as we seek to understand the science behind the decisions that have been made to date.

RFS/WM/EP Civic League President Debby Forehand had this to say about the importance of this meeting: (Continued on page 2)

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September Meeting

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

Join our civic community Facebook conversation

Do you want to keep up with neighborhood happenings, get timely information from the City of Norfolk or have the ability to ask your neighbors questions about where to find certain resources? If so, join the conversation via our civic league Facebook page.

Here's a little of what's been happening on that page lately: Information on financial literacy classes being offered by the Bank of Hampton Roads; free items up for grabs; an "I got someone else's package" alert; and some "throw back" photos of River Forrest Shores, to name a few.

You can search for us on Facebook by entering *New River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League*. Besides being happy to have you in our community, we would love to see you join our electronic one too!

(Continue from page 1—Flood Wall) "I would encourage residents, especially those who live on or near the riverfront, to make it a priority to attend this meeting. While the eastside of Norfolk has the highest elevation in the city, we need to understand what our risks are during a major storm and how our lives and property will be protected."

Revised civic league bylaws up for vote at September meeting

The civic league's governing bylaws have gotten a little outdated. It was 2014 since they were last updated. Many thanks to Suzanne Duncan, second vice trustee, for leading the initiative to revise them.

The revised version will be presented to the general membership for adoption and possible amendments at the Sept. 11 meeting. The draft document was posted on the civic league's Facebook page and it was sent as an attachment via an email to members as well. However, anyone who would like a copy re-sent to them in anticipation of the upcoming meeting can email President Debby Forehand at debby4hand@gmail.com.

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Officer Joseph Brown:

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Presidents Corner

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

Neighbors and friends, can you believe that summer is coming to an

end? I truly hope yours was a relaxing summer and that despite the record-breaking heat you stayed cool or at least managed to keep your cool!

I do want you to know your civic league board has continued to work diligently over the summer even though July and August were vacation months as far as meetings go. We have a great line-up for the Sept. 11 meeting. We are hosting speakers from the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Norfolk to talk about the city's impending \$2.6 billion investment in a flood wall and other flood mitigation efforts. As you may know, most of the protections are planned for downtown and the westside. However, we want to understand the science behind the location choices and why the eastside isn't slated for structural protections. We are sure it has something to do with the fact we live on the highest ground in the city, but we thought you would like to know the answer to this question: *Is living on higher ground protection enough?* Please plan to attend, especially if you live on the riverfront.

First Vice President Kathy O'Hara, Second Vice President Liz Albert and I had a meeting with Mayor Kenneth Alexander in August to discuss concerns we raised in city budget and tax rate hearings. Some of the concerns we voiced were: high property taxes; lack of equity in city spending (I.e. the eastside of the city is underfunded comparatively); the lackluster funding of the school system's capital improvement needs; the need for the city to shore up its investment to deliver improved educational services; other city services that need to be improved such as our local library and our lack of a full-service recreation center; and the news void on what is happening with Military Circle redevelopment. The mayor said he was committed to delivering improvements to the eastside of Norfolk in the next budget cycle. He followed up by meeting with us a second time; this time bringing the new city manager, Patrick Roberts, to hear what we had to say. We also have been communicating with the Norfolk School Board on the fate of the Easton Preschool building. We will work to keep you up-

dated as we learn of any planned changes or investments.

Please know we will be calling on you, our residents, to support this community. We must continue to make the case that equity for Eastside Norfolk is all-important.

Let's ask the Norfolk School Board to retain ownership of Easton Preschool

River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League President Debby Forehand is asking as many residents as possible to join her (and other board members) at the Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m., Norfolk School Board meeting. Our purpose will be to encourage the School Board to retain ownership of the Easton Preschool property.

As a reminder, on May 15, Mrs. Forehand communicated on this subject to civic league members through both a Facebook post and an email. She advised then that at a public meeting of the School Board there had been a brief discussion about the possibility of Norfolk Public Schools finding one building to house the Madison Alternative School and the school division's open campus program. Mrs. Forehand pointed out in that communication why the civic league board was supportive of such a plan.

The rationale is this: When a school is vacant, the building and land are turned over to the City of Norfolk. The civic league board does not feel turnover to the city would be in our neighborhoods' best interest. The 12-acre site would then most likely be developed in a manner that would involve high-density development such as apartment buildings and/or office buildings and this would likely result in increased motor vehicle traffic on Curlew Drive, Sellger Drive and Kidd Boulevard. A school in comparison is much less-traffic intensive since children largely come and go at one time on school buses (with exceptions, of course, for students who drive). And in the summer months, school traffic is almost non-existent. In addition, in the long run the multitude of high density apartment projects being built or planned for area may result in increased student enrollment in our area. Therefore, holding a building in reserve as a possible neighborhood school seems like a wise option. (Continued on page 6).



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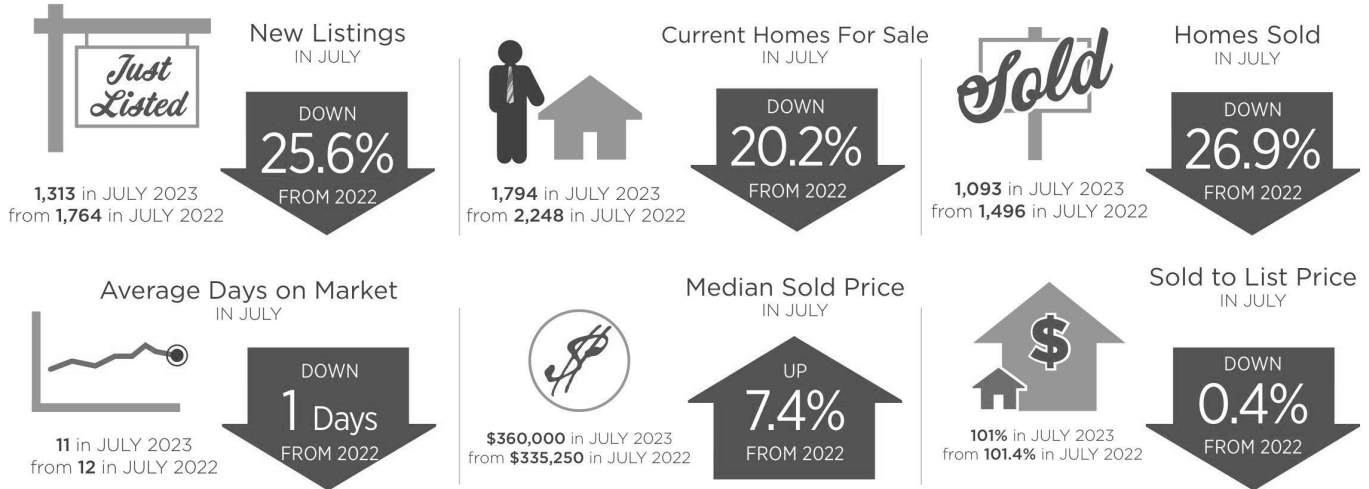


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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET UPDATE



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

2023 Board of Directors

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Worship Experience — 11:00am

(Continued from page 3—Easton Preschool) Mrs. Forehand in her May communications asked civic league members to weigh in on whether or not they supported relocation of those programs to the Easton building. The resulting response was supportive. Thus, Mrs. Forehand spoke at the Aug. 16 board meeting advising the School Board of that positive response. She asked that the School Board formally respond to the civic league on the feasibility of a relocation.

At this writing, the civic league has not received a response from the School Board. Therefore, we want to impress upon the seven School Board members that we expect one. This is where our residents come in. Mrs. Forehand once again will sign up to speak on Sept. 20 and, as part of her remarks, would like to ask supporters to stand. Please plan to attend, if at all possible, to underscore to the School Board there is a high level of community support for such an initiative.

The School Administration Building is located at 800 East City Hall Avenue. If you can attend, please meet Mrs. Forehand and other civic league board members in front of the building by 6:45 p.m. If you miss them, the School Board meeting room is located on the 12th floor of the School Administration Building. If you can't attend, you

can email your thoughts to the School Board. You can find email addresses on this page: <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public>

You can also sign up to speak, if you wish. To do so, call or email the School Board Clerk at [757-628-3994](tel:757-628-3994)/schoolboardclerk@nps.k12.va.us by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 19.

The civic league hosts regular trash pickups in the Military Gardens area and along Curlew Drive. Those interested in volunteering can contact KK German to be added to the notification list for scheduled cleanups. Her number is 757-714-2335. On Saturday, Aug. 19, a group of volunteers lent their time and energy to a neighborhood trash cleanup. From left are: Jeri and Ben Zurbuchen, Chris Graves, Denise Diederich, Bill Bunch and Ben Bush. Volunteers who are not pictured here but helped out are: Jean Cope, Wiley Hall, Patrick Date and Kathy O'Hara. Many thanks to all!



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

	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	Year to date Actual	Over (under) Budget
Income				
Newsletter Ads	1,415		780	(635)
Dues	1,500	70	1,235	(265)
Interest earned	260	0	131	(129)
Donations and Other			9	9
Total Income	3,175	70	2,155	(1,020)
Disbursements				
Newsletter Printing	1,550		945	(605)
Membership Drive	40			(40)
Postage/Office Supplies	25			(25)
Meeting Refreshments	20			(20)
Door Prizes	80		80	-
CL Meeting Hall	315		315	-
Federation Dues	20		20	-
Awards	100			(100)
Special Events	1,850			(1,850)
Incorporation fees	25		25	-
Board Meeting Hall	100		100	-
Other [1]	55	2	10	(45)
Total Disbursements	4,180	2	1,495	(2,685)
Net Income (Outflow)	(1,005)	68	660	1,665

[1] \$10.09 Paypal fees

Reconciliation:	Checking	Reserve (Savings)	Trust Account (CD)	Total cash
1/1/2023	522.55	3,116.20	11,728.31	15,367.06
2023 year to date (from above column)				660.26
				<u>16,027.32</u>
7/31/2023	1,551.91	2,616.86	11,858.55	<u>16,027.32</u>

KKG 8/7/23

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Minutes
River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place
Civic League
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
May 8, 2023

President Debby Forehand called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Terri Haddock was called to do the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Joseph Brown could not be in attendance, but had previously advised President Debby Forehand that no crime had been reported in April.

Norfolk City Council Member and Virginia State Senate candidate Andria McClellan was the speaker for the evening. Her platform focused on education. She advised those attending that the state puts zero dollars into school construction, and she is not okay with this. She said she felt the casino is not the way to get revenue for schools and the state should do a better with its investment in public education. She was elected to Norfolk City Council in 2016 and aided in bringing a new Internet provider to the area. This Internet provider assisted in the development of a new fiber ring, which included five cities coming together to fund an Internet highway. She serves on the Hampton Roads Transit's transit committee and is involved in an effort to create a schedule for buses to run every 15 minutes. She acknowledged there is an affordable housing shortage and suggested that renovating old homes to be more energy efficient is a good way to alleviate this. Youths in our city are sometimes idle for significant periods of time so she stressed training them in trades would be a good use of city and state funds. She wants to bring more resources to our area as she is invested in Norfolk. She reported that there is still no site plan for the casino and there are no current plans for Military Circle. As a member of Norfolk City Council she feels the city needs to do better in the areas of communication and transparency. Councilwoman McClellan has met with the new police chief. She said she was very impressed as he seemed sincere and ready to be involved in the community,

Mrs. Forehand asked the quorum if there were any changes needed for the March and April minutes. There were no changes discussed.

Mrs. Albert reported that about 50% of membership budget was reached. She also reiterated that an impending city hall meeting on the real estate tax rate would be held on the 11th floor of city hall.

Mrs. Forehand asked if there was any new business, as there was none, Sheryl Ghiloni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second Vice President Liz Albert seconded it. The meeting concluded at 7:55pm.

Civic League's annual Georgia Robinson Christmas party planned for Saturday, Dec. 2

Christmas may seem like a long way off, but it will be here before you know it. There is wisdom in planning ahead and your civic league has done just that. We have already set a date for the annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Party so put this date on your digital calendar or ink it on your paper one: Saturday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse.

As a reminder, our Christmas party is named after Georgia Robinson, who passed away in 2017. She planned the civic league's social hour for each meeting including our annual ice cream social; often decorated with themes, from Valentine's Day to St. Patrick's Day, supplied goodies (both home cooked and store bought); and got folks to sign up by asking us ever so sweetly!

We will be sharing more details in the near future so stay tuned!



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Minutes

**River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic
 League Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 June 12, 2023**

President Debby Forehand called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She asked the new pastor from Riverside Baptist church, Pastor Coffey to give the invocation. Mrs. Forehand followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kindra Greene, the executive director from Elizabeth River Trail (ERT) Foundation, was the first speaker. While in her position she has developed a marketing program which has increased beautification along the trails. She noted the Foundation had also become a 501c nonprofit organization in 2016. The current trail is 10.5 miles long and runs from Norfolk State University (NSU) through downtown to the Hermitage Museum and the Norfolk International Terminals (NIT). As Norfolk is an urban city the trail does consist of both roadways as well

as green areas and waterfront access points. The trail connects 28 neighborhoods along the working waterfront with an aquatic trail portion that has an ADA kayak launch. Five years ago, there was a capital campaign for improvements that included a glow-line luminous path in West Ghent and the addition of another trail head at Plum Point Park including an obstacle course area. Other improvements include bike repair stations, play areas and trash cans. A newer section of the trail includes a trailhead along Harbor Park which has reclaimed brown-space and improved the living shoreline. All the improvements aim to increase the tree canopy of the city. The ERT Foundation organizes several events which include mental health walks, yoga and group bike rides (once per week). The Elizabeth River 10k Run includes portions of the ERT and ends at the Port of Virginia NIT. Future improvements planned include an expansion from NSU to Harbor Park with grander plans of going all the way to the Newtown Road light rail station. Virginia Beach is working on planning a trail from the Newtown light rail station to the oceanfront which will connect to the ERT. For more information there is a new website, elizabethrivertrail.com. (Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10) A member of the audience asked, "Does the city of Norfolk contribute any money towards this project?"

Ms. Greene's response: In previous years, the city contributed \$500,000 over five years. This ended in 2021. Now the city contributes \$150,000 for maintenance annually as it is now a line item in the municipal budget. However, more support is needed from the city.

The second speaker, Officer Joseph Brown gave the crime report. Two incidents in May were vehicle related. The first, a car was left unlocked and was gone through. The second was a catalytic converter theft. The city is still giving away steering wheel locks for Hyundai and Kia vehicles with key style ignitions. You can find more information at Police Department's website police.norfolk.gov. Officer Brown commented on the new chief of police and stated that he seems open-minded, is data driven, and has new ideas for our city.

The third speaker, Rick James was running at the time for the District 95 House of Delegates seat. In an overview he said he wanted to forge relationships with people and would be out in the community to introduce himself to the citizens. He joined the military at age 17 where he served as a combat medic in Korea. After his military service he joined the Norfolk Police Department and served 27 years. While in the NPD he attended Regent University for law school and started a forensic program at Tidewater Community College where he was the department head. He has worked with Senator Spruill to get \$2.5 billion of federal funds for the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion project. He also worked with Senator Spruill on a "rules and tools for gun owners" program, which will include an outline on how guns should be stored in vehicles.

Mrs. Forehand reported the membership drive was not as successful as previous years' drives. She pointed out there would be a City Council meeting on May 9 and several members of the civic league would be attending to comment on the impact of rising assessments on the tax rate. Members were invited to attend and were

asked to wear red, because "we are red-hot mad." The civic league bylaws have been edited, made available to the civic league members and will be voted on in September.

Mrs. Forehand reported that the civic league board had met with Sherry Dawson and Ray Amoruso from Hampton Roads Transit to discuss an alternative to earlier site plans for the proposed light rail expansion at Newtown Road. The alternative would spare five homes on Bangor Ave. However, Mr. Amoruso and Ms. Dawson had noted the projected cost increases and maintenance costs involved would not be in alignment with the budget for the project.

Mrs. Forehand reported City Council has decided that Norfolk needs to go back to the drawing board on the planned redevelopment of Military Circle. She also advised there appears to be no arena planned for Norfolk at this time either at the Military Circle site or downtown. However, the city would be proceeding with purchasing MacArthur Center.

No new business was brought up, therefore Second Trustee Suzanne Duncan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. First Vice President Kathy O'Hara seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

A point to ponder...

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