



# News Bulletin from the RSF/WM/EP Civic League

## June 2024

### **President of Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital to speak at June 10 meeting civic league meeting**

Your civic league has two great reasons why you should attend our June 10 meeting. First and foremost, our guest speaker will be Thomas J. Orsini, the president and chief executive officer of Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital, a 104-bed hospital and 192-bed nursing facility, known for both its premier ventilator weaning and orthopedic rehab programs. Second, an ice cream social will follow the meeting to celebrate the beginning of summer.

Mr. Orsini has been serving Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital since 1999. Under his direction, the hospital has renovated and upgraded key areas, including a new, state-of-the-art patient wing and renovation of existing patient wings. In 2002, the Virginia Health Care Association recognized these achievements by naming him "Administrator of the Year." In 2018, he was named a "Health Care Hero" in Southeast Virginia for hospital leadership. And in 2022, he was honored once again by the Virginia Health Care Association as a recipient of the James G. Dunton Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement, the VHCA's highest honor, presented in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding contributions to long-term care in Virginia.



Mr. Orsini currently serves on the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association's Board of Directors; EVMS's Graduate School Advisory Committee; ODU's College of Health Sciences Advisory Board; and Norfolk Commission on Aging/Long-Term Care Coordination. He is also a member of the Civic Leadership Institute's class of 2014.

A native of central Pennsylvania, he graduated from Temple University and attended Pennsylvania State University for his graduate studies. Serving in health care for over 40 years, Mr. Orsini is also very active in the community and in 2007 was named "Person of the Year" by the Tidewater Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He lives in Virginia Beach with his wife Pamela. Their son Grayson is a graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law. Their daughter Alexandra is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

This will be the last meeting of the civic league until the fall. So mark your calendars and plan to attend to hear about a wonderful community resource and to enjoy an ice cream social and good company. The place is Aldersgate United Methodist Church and the time is 7 p.m. **(BTW, see reverse side for an important message from our president.)**

#### **Other dates to remember:**

- The civic league will hold a City Council candidate forum on Monday, Sept. 9. In November there will be an election for the Superward 7 seat and the mayoral position.
- The annual fall picnic will be held Saturday, Oct. 5 featuring good food and fellowship and a competitive corn hole tournament.

***An ice cream social will follow the meeting!***



## **A Message from River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League President: Disappointing Membership Drive May Mean Coming Changes**

Neighbors,

As you know, April was the time frame for the civic league's membership drive. In a word, the response from our community was disappointing. The drive's goal was \$1,300. At present, we have raised about \$879. Generous donors have provided \$146 to help us close the gap.

I use the adjective "disappointing" because our membership dues are the least expensive of any civic league in this city. We charge a mere \$5 per person for one year and \$12 per person for three years. So joining or renewing comes at a very reasonable rate. Even more notably, our civic league has delivered major results for this community so we expected our membership "ask" would be easily met.

Yes, the bang for your buck is considerable. For example, the reason why the Easton Preschool remained a school rather than becoming a site for high density apartments is we brought the idea of keeping it a school to the School Board through email communications and by speaking at multiple public comment sessions.

The civic league is a major reason why the real estate property tax rate decreases this year by 2 cents because last budget year we led a movement asking for a lower tax rate. We spoke at real estate assessment hearings, public comment sessions at City Council, emailed City Council, and established a "Norfolk, Lower Our Tax Rate" Facebook page.

We have lobbied for a full-service recreation and media center. This year's Capital Improvement Plan budget contains funding to begin the process of making that a reality.

We lobbied for years for traffic relief for Sellger Drive. The speed cushions on that street are the direct result of our hard work.

The civic league hosts high-profile speakers, including candidate forums during elections; holds an annual fall picnic; does regular community clean-ups; publishes a newsletter; and manages a Facebook page and a website.

The bottom line is this: Candidly, your leadership cannot keep up with the constant demands of monitoring city government; communicating important news to you; and hosting events without adequate support. If we do not meet our financial goal this year, leadership may need to consider other alternatives - such as hosting less frequent meetings and special events; no longer publishing a newsletter; and curtailing our constant lobbying of city government on behalf of our neighborhoods and the Eastside of Norfolk.

Hopefully, you value this civic league's contributions and joining/renewing just slipped your mind. Help close the gap in our membership budget. You can renew/join online via our website at: <https://eastsidecivicleague.org/membership/> or by sending a check to our treasurer, KK German at 5924 Jerry Road, Norfolk, VA 23502.



Sincerely,

Debby Forehand, President