



# Eastside Express

Circulation 630 Households

Volume 31 No. 9&10

◆ 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. 7 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 will be providing the meat, rolls, side dishes and drinks and is asking residents to bring a dessert. 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.

### How do we best work to protect our families’ assets legally? The Nov. 11 meeting will host an estate attorney who will examine our options

The River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/ Easton Place Civic League will host Jonathan Hughes, an attorney with Alperin Law, as its guest speaker for the Monday, Nov. 11 meeting. The title of Mr. Hughes’ presentation, “Why Wills Are Obsolete: How to Protect your Home, Family, and Assets the Right Way,” is a topic that is bound to be of interest to many residents. So mark your calendars for that evening. The time will be 7 p.m. and Aldersgate Methodist Church will be the meeting location.



Attorney Hughes’ focus in the practice at Alperin Law team centers on estate planning, elder law, high net worth estate planning, veterans’ pension benefits, family cabin planning and Medicaid asset protection planning. He is a 22-year veteran of Navy service who earned his Navy wings of gold. He flew helicopters at sea and also taught flight instruction to military students. Prior to joining the Navy to become a pilot, Mr. Hughes earned his aerospace engineering degree from Mississippi State University. He also earned an Executive Master of Business Administration degree from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Master of Human Resources Management from Webster University. (Continued on page 2)

### Recycle Dates

November 12th and 26th,  
December 10th and 24th

Please put your recycling  
can out.

Street Sweeping: RFS, WM  
and EP on December 27th

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### November Meeting

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

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

The civic league is asking members to consider bringing a snack to the next civic league meeting (Nov. 11) to share with neighbors. This meeting will feature an attorney who will address topics such as estate planning, elder law and whether or not wills are a good option. After the meeting adjourns we host a social time. Our social time is a great way to catch up with longtime friends and to make new friends. And that's always easier and more fun when you do it over food!

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### Through Zoom

If you can't make this meeting in person, drop in via Zoom

If you can't attend in person, there is another option. The civic league now regularly offers residents the opportunity to join via Zoom. Here's the link to the page that will allow you to attend virtually: <https://eastsidecivicleague.org/zoom-meetings/>.

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**(Continued from page 1—Speaker)** In his free time he loves to play basketball and enjoys coaching his middle school children. In addition, he and his wife train together for running and triathlon races and, most importantly, are raising four boys.

### **Outgoing President Debby Forehand: A portrait of excellence in leadership**

Debby Forehand became president of the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League in January 2018. Every year since then, she has held that position, with the exception of the 2022-23 calendar year. In that year Stephen Lewis, pastor of the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse, served as president. But even then, Debby stayed involved, serving as the second vice president and running the civic league's annual membership drive. (continued on page 3)

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**KK German**

Civic League volunteer

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**(757) 664-6510**

**For Emergency Call 911**

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**Our Community Officer:**

**Officer Joseph Brown:**

**Cell-757-377-4750**

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### *Presidents Corner*

Happy Holidays! I am amazed at how quickly the years slip by!

Before we know it the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will be upon us and then it's goodbye to 2024. It's also the time for me to say goodbye to you as your president. It has been one of my greatest privileges to have served this fantastic community. I have so appreciated the trust you have placed in me as your leader.

Although I will be moving from this community in late 2024 or early 2025, I remain committed to the health and welfare of the neighborhoods served by the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League. Therefore, I promise you I will serve through the end of my term. I also plan to stay on the board for the 2025 year as immediate past president so I can help our incoming president Edith Lizalde handle the transition smoothly. I can attest that Edith is a talented individual with a wonderful work ethic so you all will continue to be well-served!

Looking back, I am proud of the civic league's many achievements in the past seven years, none of which would have been possible without the civic league's dedicated board members. For example, it became apparent the city didn't recognize the "eastside" of Norfolk so we formed a coalition of eastside civic leagues. This coalition was able to get the attention of city leaders and after multiple requests the Eastside Task Force was created by Norfolk City Council. Having a task force serve our area means we are getting more attention from city leadership than we have ever experienced before. Through the coalition and the task force we have developed great relationships with city leaders and staff. There have been many other accomplishments the board is proud to acknowledge, but my space is limited so I won't go on, trusting that our community is aware that our interests have been safeguarded over the years.

As we begin a new era in civic league leadership, I ask you to give your new the board the same steadfast support you always extended me. Please note the election of officers for 2025 will be held at the November 11 meeting. Thankfully, most of the current board members have agreed to remain on the board.

And finally, I have one more time to celebrate with this wonderful community. Please join us for the Georgia Robinson Christmas Dinner being held at East Coast Gospel Lighthouse, December 7 @ 6 p.m. More details in the article!

I hope you all have a wonderful and peaceful Holiday season!

(Continued from page 2—Outgoing President) The civic league board wants this community to know that Debby has offered incomparably excellent leadership during her long tenure. She moved this civic league to a position of influence with city leaders. It is not uncommon for her to be consulted by city leadership when an issue affecting the Eastside of Norfolk rises to their attention. She has helped bring these accomplishments to fruition - speed cushions on Sellger Drive, a reduction in the tax rate (she lobbied extensively for this at City Council meetings and real estate assessment hearings), the launch of our Facebook page, quality special events, and perhaps most importantly, working tirelessly to ensure the property known as Easton Preschool would remain a school.

Why is Debby retiring from civic league service some have asked? Like many in their retirement years, Debby and her husband have reached the point in their lives when they need to downsize the responsibilities that come with a house on a large piece of property. She and her husband Howard are relocating to a condominium in another Hampton Roads city. However, in her typical diligent fashion, she will remain on the board as immediate past president in 2025 to ensure a smooth transition for the new president.

Undoubtedly she will be greatly missed in the long run. However, she says it best, "This is a bittersweet time in my life. I have lived in my home in North Easton Place for more than 45 years. I actually oversaw its construction. I love my home and I love our community, which is full of wonderful people who have played a significant role in my life over the years. Yet time has a way of making it apparent when you need to make a change. That time has come for me and Howard. It goes without saying the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place community will hold a place in my heart forever,"

Debby's move will most likely take place in early 2025, so if you see her at a meeting or out in the community, take a moment to wish her well or drop her a line or two at [debby4hand@gmail.com](mailto:debby4hand@gmail.com).



*Hello Neighbor*

**I'M THE TOP AGENT TO REACH OUT TO IN**

*Our Neighborhood*

*Whether you need to sell your home, need some real estate advice, or simply want to unwind and have good conversation, I've got you covered. Let's meet up and uncover the true value of our amazing community. Cheers to your lively and vibrant neighborhood!*

*-Karen Davis*

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**How to stay in touch with the work of our civic league and community happenings**

The River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League is committed to keeping its members informed about important news affecting our three neighborhoods. Here are four ways to ensure you can stay up-to-date:

- Bookmark our website, [eastsidecivicleague.org](http://eastsidecivicleague.org). Need to renew or join? You can do it here. Need to get in touch with the civic league on a community issue? You can also read back issues of the *Eastside Express*, check out volunteer opportunities and find links to important city information.
- Join our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RFSCivicleague>. Recent postings range from information about the city's emergency operations to a school supplies drive to a notice about a "found" cat and kitten.
- Read the **Eastside Express** newsletter and meeting flyers. If you have an idea for an article or wish to write and submit one, contact Kathy O'Hara at keohara@cox.net.

**Consider the *Eastside Express* as an advertising option**

Advertising in the *Eastside Express* is a cost effective way of reaching members of this community as potential customers. Whether you want to promote a one-time event such as a yard sale or get your business in front of Eastside Norfolk residents on an ongoing basis, this is a definite option to consider. The newsletter is hand-delivered to more than 600 homes five times a year. Below are the rates:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Five issues</u>	<u>Single Issue</u>
1/8th page	\$55	\$20
1/4 page	\$80	\$25
1/2 page	\$155	\$50
Full page	\$295	\$95

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**Worship Experience — 11:00am**

**RFS/WM/EP Civic League to present slate of officers for 2025**

The RFS/WM/EP Civic League will present its slate of officer positions for 2025 for approval at its Monday, Nov. 11 meeting. However, if there are residents who have an interest in any of the posts, we urge you to step forward. Competition is a good thing!

At this writing, the civic league has one area where there is no nominee on the slate — for recording secretary. If you think you might be interested, note that the secretary takes the minutes for each of the general membership meetings and board meetings. We urge neighbors to consider serving.

Many of the nominees are returning board members, but there will be some new faces on the leadership team come 2025. For example, longtime president Debby Forehand is retiring from the top post. The nominee for president is Edith Lizalde who served the board in 2024 as the second vice trustee. In her trustee position Edith proved to be an invaluable asset to the board, singlehandedly designing and launching our new website, [eastside-civicleague.org/](http://eastside-civicleague.org/). Nick Masella, the nominee for first vice trustee, has been diligent about learning all he can about

the City of Norfolk's plans for the future. He has served as champion for the NFK2050 plan, which will lay out the community vision for the kind of city citizens want Norfolk to be. The NFK2050 will eventually replace the existing Comprehensive Plan, [planorfolk2030](http://planorfolk2030). As a champion, Nick has helped encourage input from citizens prior to the plan's eventual development. The nominee for second vice trustee is Garrett Beaver of Easton Place. He is a new addition who has an interest in serving his community.

Hopefully, residents recognize that the civic league has been an effective voice for our community over the years. In the interests of having a good succession plan for leadership, it should be noted many of the returning members would be willing to step aside in favor of new volunteers. Therefore, if you want to serve or want to nominate someone, please contact President Debby Forehand via phone (757-478-7585), text or email ([debby4hand@gmail.com](mailto:debby4hand@gmail.com)) and we will add that person(s) to the slate for voting purposes.

Below is the slate of officers that will be presented at the November meeting:

President: Edith Lizalde

1st Vice President: Kathy O'Hara (Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6—2025 Officers)

2nd Vice President: Liz Albert  
Corresponding Secretary: Lisa Gragg  
Recording Secretary: Open Position  
Treasurer: KK German  
Trustee: Dustin Wallace  
First Vice Trustee: Nick Masella  
Second Vice Trustee: Garrett Beaver

We realize that serving as an officer isn't an option everybody wants to take advantage of, but there are things you can do to support the civic league now and in 2025. This would include, but not be limited to, volunteering to participate in the April membership drive; recommending guest speakers for meetings; serving on special event committees like our annual picnic and Christmas party; writing a story for an upcoming newsletter; and attending membership meetings in support of the civic league's work.

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### **General Membership Meeting**

**River Forest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place**

**Civic League**

**September 9, 2024**

President Debby Forehand called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Terry Haddock, Norfolk Police Chaplain, led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Police Report: Officer Joseph Brown reported there was one instance of a residential burglary in the 200 Block of E. McGinnis Circle in August. There was also an instance of residential robbery in July. Both of those remain under active investigations. He noted the police department is keeping an eye on auto larceny in the city. There was a slight increase over the summer. He is also working with the city's Code Enforcement team to have abandoned vehicles removed from neighborhood streets, especially Sellger Drive.

Forum: President Forehand introduced Daniel Lewis, the moderator for the City Council Candidate Forum. She shared that candidate Phillip Hawkins would be a little late as he was at another civic league meeting prior to our meeting. Mr. Lewis then reviewed the format and ground rules for the forum.

Candidates for Superward 7 in attendance were:

- Carlos Clanton, the current School Board member representing Ward 3 and the executive director of the Friends of Portsmouth Juvenile Court, Inc.
- Phillip Hawkins Jr., an assistant principal of P.B. Young Elementary School in Norfolk and a long-time civic activist.
- Rodney Jordan, current School Board member representing Superward 7 and technology consultant.
- Leon Judge, a former Marine and a mentor for at-risk youth.
- Christine Smith, a former School Board member who represented Ward 4 and a certified public accountant.

Candidate for Mayor in attendance was:

- Tommy Leeman, a financial advisor with A.G. Edwards and long-time community volunteer.

Candidates not in attendance:

- Kenneth Alexander, the current mayor of the City of Norfolk.
- Giovanni Dolmo, a former member of the U. S. Navy who has a Bachelor of Science degree in technology.

General questions were asked of each candidate present including their opinions on Military Circle redevelopment; the city's capital improvement plan; and the planned casino.

The forum was then opened to questions from the attendees and those attending via live streaming. Moderator Daniel Lewis closed the forum thanking all the candidates for coming and answering citizen questions. He also invited the candidates to stay for the social time for one-on-one discussion and engagement with the attendees. Mr. Lewis also thanked attendees for their thoughtful questions and asked them to consider staying for the social time to talk with the candidates.

President Forehand thanked Mr. Lewis for moderating and reminded everyone that next month would be a forum with candidates for the School Board. Subsequently the May and June general meeting minutes were adopted as presented. President Forehand also thanked the citizens of the civic league who filled the gap in the membership budget with donations. The door prize was won by Charla Smith-Worley, a visitor from Lake Taylor Civic League.

Trustee Suzanne Duncan made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Second Vice Trustee Edith Lizalde. The motion was approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

## Norfolk Sheriff's Office



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**Treasurer's Budget Report**  
**RFS/WM/EP Civic League**  
**For the month ended September 30, 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	80	785	(690)
Dues	1,300		1,103	(197)
Interest earned	265	68	203	(62)
Donations			969	969
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Newsletter Printing	* 1,575	264	1,219	(356)
Marketing	* 254	138	138	(117)
Membership Drive	25			(25)
Postage/Office Supplies	30		7	(23)
Meeting Refreshments	20		-	(20)
Door Prizes	90		90	-
CL Meeting Hall	315		315	-
Zoom purchase	* 150		168	18
P.A. System (formerly webmaster				
[3] training)	* 762		853	91
Federation Dues	20		20	-
Awards	100			(100)
Special Events	1,800		203	(1,597)
Incorporation fees	25		25	-
Board Meeting Hall	100		100	-
[1] Other	* 37		39	2
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>5,303</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>(2,127)</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(2,263)</b>	<b>(253)</b>	<b>(116)</b>	<b>2,147</b>
Add back Block grant received from the				
[2] city fall of 2023	2,073	402	1,880	(193)
<b>Net income (Outflow)</b>	<b>(189)</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>1,954</b>

<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Checking	Reserve (Savings)	Trust Account (CD)	Total cash
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>(116)</b>
				<u>17,201.60</u>
9/30/2024	2,194.45	2,812.77	12,194.38	<u>17,201.60</u>

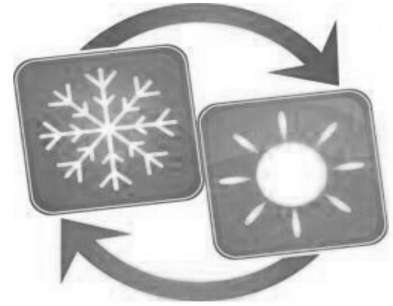
[1] Other: Paypal fees + website domain

[2] The civic league received \$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.

[3] \$374.02 was allocated for anticipated webmaster training for a civic league volunteer, however, Edith Lizalde, an accomplished web mistress, joined the board so webmaster training was no longer needed. With the approval of the city, the civic league spent \$853 on a P.A. system to make membership meetings available to a Zoom audience, to enhance the Zoom meetings volume, and to have a microphone system for meetings and special events e.g. candidate forums, picnics and Christmas Dinners.



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

**October 14, 2024**

President Debby Forehand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Liz Albert led us in prayer and pledge.

President Forehand introduced Scott Mahone, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Norfolk.

Mr. Mahone talked about what you need to do for hurricane preparedness or even just a disaster preparedness. There are three items you need:

- 1<sup>st</sup> a plan: will you stay in place – if so, what do you need to do that. If not, how will you get out of your neighborhood. Know what your neighbors around you will be doing (either side, front and back).
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: have an emergency kit of food, water – he recommends packages of 16 oz, water bottles as it is easier to carry more water than in gallon jugs. What medica-

tions do you need? You will need enough of these items for 5 – 8 days. That water and food are per person, plan accordingly. Do not forget about your pets.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: if evacuating take all your important documents with you. That would be insurance, Social Security Card, pictures of the inside and outside of your house to prove what you owned when filing insurance claims, car titled, passports and or birth certificates.

For resources with the city of Norfolk please visit our website [eastsidecivicleague.org](http://eastsidecivicleague.org)

**Basic Training for CERT Volunteers**

While people will respond to others in need without training, CERT provides basic training to help volunteers respond in an organized and safe manner, and to guide others in responding effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger. CERT volunteers are taught an all-hazard approach, including how to:

- Help in their neighborhood

Learn basic response skills (Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10—October Minutes)

- Learn to triage and treat injuries
- Prevent injury or damage in their own home
- Quickly evaluate a rescue situation
- Shut off water and gas utilities
- Use a fire extinguisher

#### Completion of Training

Upon completion of training, each person will receive a CERT Kit with preparedness items.

While the office of emergency management does not control the schools they will give recommendations to the school board. They also work with HRT to help with transportation emergency shelters. They also work with other city Emergency Preparedness departments in the area to access changing conditions and come to a consensus on recommendations to their city leadership.

When there is dangerous weather usually Public Works and Public Safety are the only two departments with people out on the streets working. Mr. Mahone reminded everyone once it gets to 17° it is too cold to clear roads. Trucks may still be sanding, but it doesn't do much good.

What can our civic league do? Pick a central location like this meeting place for needs to be posted. This will enable a central location for everyone in the neighborhood know who needs help cutting down trees, needs food, diapers, etc. This also gives the fire and police departments' one location to go to help access the needs in the neighborhood.

Police Report: Officer Brown reported there was one instance of larceny, a backpack was left at the light rail. Holiday season is coming and patrols will be increasing in the shopping areas of the city. He will have more details at our November meeting. The shopping detail will start on Black Friday.

President Forehand thanked everyone who came out to the picnic and volunteered. It was well attended and fun was had by everyone.

President Forehand said she will not be the president next year as she is moving out of the city.

President Forehand presented the slate of officers for election next month!

President: Edith Lizalde

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Kathy O'Hara

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Liz Albert

Recording Secretary: Currently VACANT

Corresponding Secretary: Lisa Gregg

Treasurer: K.K. German

Trustee: Dustin Wallace

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee: Currently VACANT

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee: Currently VACANT

The civic league needs a Recording Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Trustee, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Trustee. Please consider becoming part of the board.

Lauren Vaughan memorial of life will be at her home on the 20th at 3pm, please let Ms. Hanson know if you are planning to come by so her daughter can plan the food and drinks accordingly.

Trash pickup will be this Saturday (Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>) meeting at St. Peters at 8:00 am.

Nick Masella shared that the NFK2050 is having an event Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. It is an advisory committee; volunteers are needed for the round table discussions. It will be at Granby High School from 11:00 – 3:00. If interested, please let him know.

Christmas Dinner will be at Gospel Lighthouse on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 – 8:00. We will be doing the Dirty Santa, the minimum cost for a gift if you wish to participate is \$20

Raffle was won by Nick Masella.

Mrs. Duncan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wallace, approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

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### **Volunteer to help keep our neighborhoods clean!**

Clean neighborhoods signal a healthy community. Because we live in an area where there are significant cut-through roads (Sellger Drive and Curlew Drive) and two light rail stations, trash along the roadside has become a significant challenge.

That's why a team of dedicated volunteers regularly participates in trash pickups in these areas: Military Gardens on S. Military Highway from Sellger Drive to Water's Edge Apartments; and along the light rail line from Curlew Drive to Kidd Blvd on the west to Newtown Road on the east. (Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11—Keep our neighborhoods clean)

Bill Bunch chairs the effort and KK German supports him administratively. If you are interested in obtaining more information or would like to be on the text list for reminders about an upcoming clean-up, you can contact Bill at 757-323-3661 or KK at 757-714-2335. Volunteers are provided pick up wands, trash bags and safety vests.

### Community spirit reigned at the annual Harry Jones community picnic

The annual Harry Jones community picnic, held Saturday, Oct. 5, proved to be a wonderful day. The food was tasty; the corn hole tournament was good-naturedly competitive; the visiting dignitaries were gracious (this included Mayor Kenneth Alexander, City Councilman J.P. Paige and School Board member Carlos Clanton); the activities for children were engaging; and the fellowship among neighbors was wonderful. Below are some photos of

the

pic-



ture-perfect day!



First place winners in the corn hole tournament were Adam and Mark Smiley. Their team name was Second Again (maybe it should have been First, Of Course.)



Taking second place were Larry Smiley and John Cottrell of Team Winning.



Team Summer Girls -- Betsey Smiley and Judith Thorson - took third place.



The picnic is named after the late Harry Jones, who actively supported this community for many years. His wife Sandy is pictured in this photo (first row, third person). Also, a shout out to Liz Albert (second row, first seat), who chaired the picnic, and is an organizer extraordinaire.