



Eastside Express

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Volume 32 No. 1&2

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



Our missing speed cushion finally got installed!

The case of the missing speed cushion is now officially closed. Residents had been asking civic league board members why there wasn't a speed cushion in the westbound lane near the Riverside Station apartments when in the eastbound lane there was one at that point — on Sellger Drive in front of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and across the street from Riverside Baptist Church and the apartments.

President Debby Forehand followed up repeatedly with city staff. While we won't go into the detailed back-and-forth here, we will say the city at first disputed its absence was an oversight. Thankfully, our president had the original drawings to prove a 9th speed cushion was in the original plans.

It took us almost two years to get the problem solved. It just goes to prove that perseverance can make a big difference. The 9th speed cushion was installed just before the holiday season!

Norfolk's interim director of budget and strategic planning, to speak at Jan. 13 meeting; learn how you can weigh in on city funding choices

The River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League will host Pamela Marino, interim director of budget

and strategic planning for the City of Norfolk, as the guest speaker for the Monday, Jan. 13 general membership meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Sellger Drive.

Ms. Marino will address city priorities, the budget adoption timeline and how citizens can weigh in on what they believe should be priority expenditures.

Ms. Marino (MPA) has over 20 years' experience working in local government; the last 16 years with the City of Norfolk. She has held a variety of positions while working for Norfolk. Her career with the city spans from communicating the work of the Department of Public Works to sharing Norfolk's news in the Communications Department to launching the Open Data Program to being a founding member of CivicLab. For the last three years she has served as the Assistant Director in the Department of Budget & Strategic Planning; recently she was named the interim director.

(Continued on page 2)



Recycle Dates

January 21th, February 4th and 18th

Please put your recycling can out.

Street Sweeping: No service until March

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January Meeting

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

(Continued from page 1—Norfolk’s interim director)

The consistent throughline in every task she has tackled for the city has been her passion for bringing efficiency, data-informed decision-making and transparency to local government.

Officers to be installed

The Jan. 13 meeting will also feature the installation of these officers: President, Edith Lizalde; First Vice President, Kathy O’Hara; Second Vice President, Liz Albert; Treasurer, KK German; Corresponding Secretary; Lisa Gragg; Trustee, Dustin Wallace; First Vice Trustee, Nick Masala; and Second Vice Trustee, Garrett Beaver. The civic league is still in need of a recording secretary. If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone, contact President Edith Lizalde at edith.lizalde@yahoo.com.

Join our civic league’s Facebook conversation

By now you know that a lot happens in our three neighborhoods. It’s a benefit to have a news source and the civic league Facebook page serves that purpose. If you haven’t joined the conversation yet, consider doing so now.

Here’s a little of what’s been posted on that page in recent weeks: postings about holiday events in our community and the local area; details about a “found” iPhone; an alert that a break-in had occurred at the Quick Serve store on Sellger; and a traffic advisory that Curlew Drive would be closed briefly. To find our page search for this name - New River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League.

Refreshments needed for next meeting

The civic league is asking members to consider bringing a snack to the next civic league meeting (Jan. 13) to share with neighbors. This meeting will feature Pamela Marino, interim director of budget and strategic planning for the City of Norfolk, as the guest speaker. 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!

Important Numbers

Norfolk Cares

Assistance Center

Hours: Mon—Fri, 9AM-5PM

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Our Community Officer:

Officer Joseph Brown:

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Presidents Corner

President's Corner: Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future

As your incoming President, I am both humbled and excited to write my first President's Corner article. As

we move into 2025, I want to acknowledge the remarkable leadership of our outgoing president, Debby Forehand, who has served this community with distinction since 2018. Under her guidance, our civic league has become one of the most effective voices for positive change in Norfolk.

Debby's tenure has been marked by numerous achievements that have transformed how the "Eastside" is perceived and served by city leadership. She and the civic league board recognized early on that our area needed a stronger voice and worked tirelessly to form coalitions with other Eastside civic leagues. This strategic approach led to the creation of the Eastside Task Force by Norfolk City Council, ensuring our community receives the attention it deserves from city leadership.

2024 was particularly notable for several key accomplishments:

- Successfully advocated for the retention of Easton Preschool by Norfolk Public Schools, which now houses the Madison Alternative Center and Open Campus programs
- Secured funding in the city's FY-25 capital improvement budget for an Eastside Fitness and Wellness Center needs assessment (\$350,000)
- Launched our new website, eastsidecivicleague.org
- Hosted successful community events including the Harry Jones Community Picnic and Georgia Robinson Christmas Party
- Organized informative monthly meetings with speakers including Mayor Kenneth Alexander, Sheriff Joe Baron, and various city officials
- Conducted a well-attended candidate forum for the Superward 7 City Council seat

Our dedicated volunteers, led by Bill Bunch and Kathy O'Hara, have maintained their commitment

to neighborhood beautification through regular clean-up efforts. Special recognition goes to Chris Glaves and Jeri Zerbuchen, who have been particularly steadfast in their dedication to keeping our neighborhood streets clean. We're also grateful to the many other committed volunteers who regularly pitch in to maintain the beauty of our community. The civic league has also strengthened its communication channels through our Facebook page and the Eastside Express newsletter, ensuring residents stay informed about important community developments.

As we move into 2025, I am grateful that Debby will continue to serve on our board as the immediate past president, providing valuable guidance during this transition. Our civic league's strength has always been its engaged residents and volunteers who contribute their time and talents to making our neighborhoods better places to live.

My vision for the coming year includes:

- Continuing our strong advocacy for the Eastside Fitness and Wellness Center development
- Expanding our membership base through enhanced community outreach
- Monitoring the development plans for Military Circle to ensure they align with community interests
- Strengthening our partnerships with city leadership and neighboring civic leagues

I encourage everyone to support our civic league through membership, attendance at meetings, and participation at our events. Together, we can build upon the strong foundation laid by Debby and our civic league board while charting new paths forward for our community.



General Membership Meeting
River Forest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place
Civic League
November 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Debby Forehand at 7 p.m. In acknowledgement of Veteran's Day, she asked all veterans to stand and thanked them for their service. Members present gave them a round of applause. Mrs. Forehand then called on Second Vice President Liz Albert to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and to give the invocation.

Community Resource Officer Joseph Brown could not make the meeting for a police update, but did provide Mrs. Forehand with some information to share. She reported that there had been a homicide at the Riverside Station apartment complex and an arrest had been made. She also reminded the group the police would soon be doing holiday safety patrols. Another reminder was to be vigilant about order deliveries to homes as the police were expecting an increase in package theft over the holidays.

Attorney Jonathan Hughes from the Alperin Law Firm was the guest speaker. He gave a presentation on the difference between trusts and wills. He said trusts tend to cover more needs/issues such as living wills, advanced directives, long-term care planning and other financial matters of an estate.

He pointed out that in the case of a will the local government gets involved with an estate because a will must go through probate. This means the commissioner and/or circuit court has oversight of the estate. This oversight is in effect for 12 months.

He noted trusts require more work up front and cost more than a will to get created. Trusts have three phases: 1 – while you are healthy & competent, 2 – when you're sick or disabled and 3 – after you pass away. A trust lets an individual determine guardianship if he or she becomes disabled. An individual can deed a home to a trust as well as bank assets. The trustee can name his/her successor for the trust. If that is a spouse, the trustee can also name children as co-trustees in event of a spouse's death. Additional benefits were cited. (The entire presentation is now posted on eastsidecivicleague.org under the Resources category.) Mr. Hughes said Alperin offers a free first consultation.

In the business portion of the meeting the minutes for the two previous months were approved with no

changes. Mrs. Forehand then shared the slate of officers for 2025 and that slate was approved by a vote of those attending (a quorum was in effect). She advised those attending that per the league bylaws, she will be serving on the board as the immediate past president in 2025 and will work to ensure a smooth transition for the new president. Officers for 2025 are: President, Edith Lizalde; First Vice President, Kathy O'Hara; Second Vice President, Liz Albert; Treasurer, KK German; Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Gragg; Trustee, Dustin Wallace; First Vice Trustee, Nick Masala; and Second Vice Trustee, Garrett Beaver.

Mrs. Forehand then remind the group that Dec. 7th was the date for the Georgia Robinson Christmas Party and that it would be held at the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse and there would be a Dirty Santa gift exchange with a \$20 limit on the cost of gifts.

The meeting raffle was won by Mrs. Albert. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Local churches contribute to the vitality of our community.

Our community is fortunate to have five churches within a few blocks of our homes: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, East Coast Gospel Lighthouse, Firm Foundation Worship Center, Riverside Baptist and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Most of these churches have in-person and live-streamed services. To learn more about these churches and to determine which might best meet your family's needs, check out their online presences. East Coast Gospel Lighthouse and Firm Foundation Worship Center are on Facebook while Aldersgate UMC, Riverside Baptist and St. Peter's Episcopal do have websites. There are many benefits to attending church, including:

- **Spiritual growth:** Church can help you grow in your faith and feel closer to God. You can learn how to follow God and focus on him instead of yourself.
- **Sense of community:** Church can help you feel connected to others and build a support network. You can make friends and feel a sense of belonging.
- **Mental health:** Church can help reduce anxiety and depression, and may even help prevent suicide.
- **Physical health:** Church can help you lead a healthier life and live longer.
- **Social support:** Church can help you build a strong social support network.
- **Personal growth:** Church can help you grow personally.
- **Volunteer opportunities:** Church can provide opportunities to serve.

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Civic league website offers residents the option of attending meetings virtually

Did you know that you can attend a civic league meeting virtually? While in-person attendance is the better option because you can spend some quality time with your friends and neighbors, the option of a virtual meeting does provide residents a great deal of flexibility.

Our website, eastsidecivicleague.org, is set up so visitors can access a general membership meeting virtually. On the home page, at the top right, you will see the **Zoom Meetings** link. Merely click on that link and you will arrive at the page where the meeting is live streamed. For your planning purposes membership meetings in 2025 will be held on these dates: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12, June 9, Sept. 8, Oct. 13 and Nov. 10.

Be sure to check out eastsidecivicleague.org as it offers a great deal of valuable information for our community such as a page with links to city and community resources, archived editions of the civic league’s *Eastside Express* newsletter, a calendar of events and how to get in touch with the civic league should you have a question or need.

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

	Annual Budget	Current Month Actual	Year to date Actual	Over (under) Budget
Income				
Newsletter Ads	1,475		1,690	215
Dues	1,300		1,144	(156)
Interest earned	265	69	273	8
Donations			1,072	1,072
Total Income	3,040	69	4,179	1,139
Disbursements				
Newsletter Printing	* 1,575	123	1,665	90
Marketing	* 254		165	(89)
Membership Drive	25			(25)
Postage/Office Supplies	30		7	(23)
Meeting Refreshments	20		27	7
Door Prizes	90		90	-
CL Meeting Hall	315		315	-
Zoom purchase	* 150		168	18
P.A. System (formerly webmaster training)	* [3] 762		853	91
Federation Dues	20		20	-
Awards	100	100	100	-
Special Events	1,800	795	1,687	(113)
Incorporation fees	25		25	-
Board Meeting Hall	100		100	-
[1] Other	* 37	0	12	(25)
Total Disbursements	5,303	1,019	5,235	(68)
Subtotal	(2,263)	(949)	(1,056)	1,207
Add back Block grant received from the city fall of 2023	[2] 2,073	123	2,073	(0)
Net income (Outflow)	(189)	(826)	1,017	1,207

	Checking	Reserve (Savings)	Trust Account (CD)	Total cash
Reconciliation:				
1/1/2024	2,707.74	2,617.52	11,992.31	17,317.57
2024 year to date (from above column)				(1,056)
				<u>16,261.64</u>
12/31/2024	1,185.13	2,813.49	12,263.02	<u>16,261.64</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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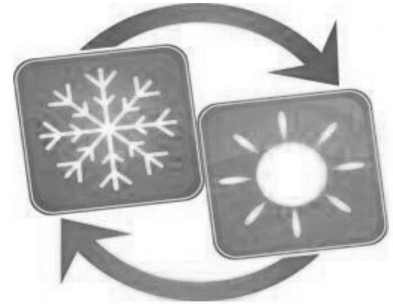
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Annual Georgia Robinson Christmas party: Food, fun, fellowship and “theft”

More than 50 neighbors gathered at the East Coast Gospel Lighthouse on Dec. 7 for the civic league’s annual Georgia Robinson Christmas party. Several special guests were also in attendance including Ward 4 City

Councilman J.P. Paige and Superward 7 City Councilman-elect Carlos Clanton.

Besides good food (catered by the civic league with the desserts provided by neighbors) and fellowship, the event also included a fun tradition - the Dirty Santa gift exchange. Well, actually “exchange” is not quite the accurate noun because a little theft was involved in Dirty Santa present-giving. This is how it worked: Participants brought a wrapped or a bagged gift. They all drew numbers and when an individual’s number was called he or she had a choice - proceed to pick a gift from the gift table or steal a gift from someone who has chosen before them. A gift

could be stolen only twice. On the second steal it stayed with that individual. Let’s just say there was a lot of laughter during the thievery.

Below are some photos of the event, which is named after a long-time civic league volunteer (now deceased) who coordinated refreshments for meetings and special events. If you didn’t attend this year, make a point to do so next year!



President Debby Forehand and two special guests, Ward 4 Councilman J.P Paige and Superward 7 Councilman-elect Carlos Clanton, share a merry moment. (See more photos on page 12)



Sheriff Joe Baron



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Civic league board member Dustin Wallace took a moment to capture a family picture.

More merriment photos from the civic league Christmas party!



It's always a good time when neighbors get together



Lynn Lewis worked hard to keep the Dirty Santa thieves in line.

