

EASTSIDE EXPRESS

May/June 2025
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Important information about bulk waste collection

by Chris Graves

Neighbors, take note! Without a bulk request for removal, the city will only empty the green can and clear trash bags filled with yard waste. TFC Recycling will only empty the blue can.

A bulk request is needed for anything else including bundled sticks, branches and tree limbs, move in/out items, household items. Basically anything outside of the green or blue can.

With a request, the city will promptly pick up just about anything! The city has made it easy to make requests using:

- MyNorfolk Mobile App (available for iOS and Android)
- The Citizen Services Portal at www.mynorfolk.org
- Call Norfolk Cares Center at (757) 664-6510
- Email healthyneighborhoods@norfolk.gov
- <https://www.norfolk.gov/2734/Trash-Recycling>

Chris Graves is a faithful participant in the civic league's clean-up crew. He and other members of the clean-up crew have noticed that some bulky items sit curbside for an inordinate amount of time. Hence, this important reminder for neighbors.

Norfolk City Councilman Carlos Clanton to speak at May 12 Meeting

The guest speaker for the civic league's Monday, May 12 meeting will be Norfolk City Councilman Carlos J. Clanton. Councilman Clanton is our Superward 7 representative.



He took office in January 2025 after winning the seat in the November 2024 election. Make an effort to attend this important meeting to hear how the councilman is organizing to best represent the interests of the city as a whole and our area in particular. The meeting will be held in Aldersgate United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m.

(continued on page 2)

Civic league's hard work pays off

Mayor announces plans for a new combined library and recreation center at Military Circle

In his annual State of the City address held in early April, Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander shared some important news for Eastside Norfolk. A new library and fitness center is planned for the former Military Circle mall site!

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Recycle Dates

May 13th and 27th
June 3rd & 17th
Street Sweeping:
May 23 & June 27

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May Meeting

Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on May 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

(Continued from page 1—Councilman Clanton)

Mr. Clanton has a long history of public service. In 2018 he was elected to serve as the Ward 3 representative on the Norfolk School Board. As an NPS board member, and later as board chair and vice chair, he worked with community stakeholders to improve Norfolk public education, from helping steer the school system through the pandemic to working to ensure adequate school maintenance funding.

Mr. Clanton holds a Bachelor of Science degree in training with a minor in leadership from Old Dominion University. He is currently completing a Master of Public Administration (MPA). He also holds a certificate in nonprofit management from Tidewater Community College's Academy of Excellence.

Mr. Clanton has served in key roles on various boards and commissions at the local, state, and national levels. He currently serves on the board of Visit Norfolk, the advisory board for the Tidewater Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the board for the G.W.C. Brown Legacy Education Fund. He has also performed as a vocalist with the Virginia Opera for 35 years.

There are many important issues facing Eastside Norfolk now, from the development of Military Circle to improving public education. You won't want to miss this opportunity to get an inside look at how Councilman Clanton wants to work with and for us in the future.

Don't forget you have the option to attend via Zoom. If you can't physically attend the upcoming meeting, you do have the option of attending via Zoom. Visit this page on our website to make it happen:

<https://eastsidecivicleague.org/zoom-meetings/>

(Continued from page 1- Recreation Center)

This announcement marked the culmination of years of hard work on the part of the RFS/WM/EP Civic League which has lobbied year after year for Eastside Norfolk to receive a comparable level of attention and investment as Westside Norfolk.

What is the latest investment in Westside Norfolk? The Wards Corner area soon will be the site of a new state-of-the-art combined fitness and wellness center and library. With a projected cost of \$68 million, the combination facility is expected to open to the public in Fall 2027.

But now it appears the Eastside will soon get like attention. A new Military Circle facility, which will be called the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center at Military, is being designed by the Fairfax office of Lose Design.

In his State of the City Address Mayor Alexander said the facility would feature a state-of-the-art library with the latest technology and services to support learning, research and community involvement.

"We thank Mayor Alexander, City Council members and city leadership for their decision to make this investment in our community. Such a facility will contribute greatly to the quality of life in Eastside Norfolk," said Edith Lizalde, president of the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League.

The Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center at Military is expected to mirror what is planned for the Westside facility. To see what residents might expect in a new recreation facility, visit this webpage on the city's website: <https://www.norfolk.gov/6500/Enhanced-Norfolk-Fitness-Wellness-Center>.

Brother, Sister, Can you Spare a Snack?

The civic league is asking members to consider bringing a snack to the next civic league meeting (May 12) to share with neighbors. This meeting will feature Norfolk City Councilman Carlos Clanton who will address important city news. 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!



**President’s Corner:
Building on momentum
together**

As we head into the summer months, I’d like to thank our neighborhoods as we make real strides toward a stronger, more connected Eastside.

First, I would like to highlight the addition of a new resource for our neighborhoods: Officer Charles Dreer has joined us as our new Norfolk Police Department liaison. We are excited to work with him to continue promoting safety and staying informed.

Our annual membership drive is coming to a close, but please remember: you can join or renew your membership at any time throughout the year! Membership not only strengthens our civic league’s voice, it allows us to advocate effectively for improvements that directly impact our quality of life. I am thrilled to share that this year, we have received extremely generous donations from several of our residents—an incredible testament to the value our neighbors see in the civic league’s purpose, commitment, and integrity.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch a new neighborhood listening survey! This survey will be available soon on our Facebook page and our website (eastsidecivicleague.org). Your feedback is critical. It will guide our work as we develop a comprehensive strategic plan that reflects the community’s needs, ideas, and priorities.

Finally, we are currently seeking two additional newsletter carriers to help ensure that our newsletters are delivered in a timely and efficient manner. Sharing this responsibility is important to keeping our communications strong without placing the burden on just one person. As they say, **teamwork makes the dream work**—and there’s no better example than what we continue to accomplish together.

Thank you for your ongoing support, involvement, and commitment to making our neighborhoods such wonderful places to live.

With appreciation,
Edith Lizalde
President

Important Numbers
Norfolk Cares
Assistance Center
Hours: Mon—Fri, 9AM-5PM
(757) 664-6510
For Emergency Call 911
Our Community Officer:
Officer Charles Dreer
Cell-757-353-1268

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

March 10, 2025

President Edith Lizalde called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Ms. Clara Allen opened with prayer. Ms. Lizalde led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Corresponding Secretary Lisa Gragg, was unable to attend the installation meeting. President Lizalde installed Ms. Gragg to the board for the current year.

Business:

- The minutes from general meeting minutes from January and February were approved as presented.
- Finance report: The civic league reported \$525 in revenue, but spent \$730 on the newsletter and flyer which is the normal expense. The CDs have rolled over for another year at 2.82%. Interest on the CDs for 2024 was \$273.
- City of Norfolk Business: Our representative JP Paige shared that the city budget survey was taking place that week. He said he wanted to know our concerns and needs for our ward. Discussion on playgrounds, recreational centers, library, and green space were quickly suggested by members in the room.

Program:

Ms. Kindra Green, executive director of the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation, provided updates and developments occurring on the Elizabeth River Trail. Some key points presented included:

(Continued on page 8)

Where have all the fireflies gone?

By Elizabeth Paiste for Citizens for Responsible Lighting

The beginning of summer for me meant camping in the backyard, catching fireflies, and looking for shooting stars. These activities are all but a distant memory. Man's ever-present desire to extend our daytime hours with artificial lights has threatened more than just these simple childhood pleasures. Artificial lights have grown in such intensity over the past 100 years that they have become a major disruptor to the circadian rhythm for all living creatures. And now Dominion Energy is transitioning Norfolk's streetlights to LEDs that emit unhealthy blue light waves. With the current plan, the impact of these particular artificial lights will be like putting our existing streetlights on steroids.

According to the American Medical Association and the National Institutes of Health, all living creatures have acclimated their physical, mental and behavioral processes to respond to various degrees of sunlight and darkness. We need darkness for our bodies to run efficiently. For humans, the production of melatonin is triggered only when darkness occurs. Melatonin is not only a sleep agent, it is an important hormone that aids in the prevention of heart disease, Alzheimer's, IBS, cancer and diabetes. Our inability to achieve a proper night's sleep has contributed to the rise of these diseases. Artificial light at night reduces darkness so the triggers that darkness initiates for all living creatures do not properly occur. This results in serious ecological consequences on top of our increased health issues. But unlike other manmade inventions that negatively impact ecology, this one is more easily correctible and preventable.

Citizens for Responsible Lighting (CRL) is lobbying for healthier LED light choices. We support warm color LED lights that emit negligible blue light waves in type 2 distribution light fixtures as recommended by The American Medical Association, DarkSky International and VDOT. Street lighting should be targeted only where it is needed and not up into the night sky nor into residents' windows. We all have been warned to turn off our electronics at night because of the dangerous effect of blue light waves. It makes no sense to install such lights for our streets when safer LED alternatives exist. Let's create a safer environment for Norfolk residents and all living creatures. Contact us on Facebook CRLNorfolk, Instagram: CRL_Norfolk or email us at CRL.Norfolk@gmail.com . But most importantly, contact your City Council Representative that you want a holistic LED plan for Norfolk.

How to stay connected with your community

We all want a vibrant community — one that is friendly and offers residents helpful resources. The River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League is committed to facilitating that goal. Here are some of the ways we work to accomplish it:

- Our civic league Facebook page is a dynamic place to get neighborhood news and to share it as well. If you haven't joined the conversation yet, consider doing so now. Here's how interested residents can get to that page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RFSCivicLeague>.
- Our eastsidecivicleague.org website offers residents many resources such as the ability to attend general membership meetings via Zoom; important city contact information; and online membership dues payment.
- The civic league hosts general meetings on the second Monday of the months of January through June and then September through November. The site is Aldersgate United Methodist Church and the time is 7 p.m.. We make every effort to schedule high-interest speakers for each meeting.
- We maintain an email distribution list for community news. If you aren't on that list but want to be, send an email requesting your addition to riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com.

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If you haven't joined or renewed your membership yet, NOW is the time to do so!

The annual membership drive kicked off in April. Civic league board members worked throughout the month to contact residents to join or renew their membership. At this writing, we are still tallying the results of those efforts. We will say this, however: If we missed getting in touch with you for some reason, please make it a priority to join or renew now. The civic league has worked hard to ensure our community gets due attention from the city and we need your support to ensure we have the resources to continue our work.

Candidly, a \$5 annual individual membership (or \$12 for three years) is a small investment for the big results we have delivered. You can pay online easily by visiting this page:

<https://eastsidecivicleague.org/membership>. If you are unsure of your membership status or if you want a board member to come by your home to pick up membership dues, email us at riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated!



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk

AldersgateNorfolkUMC.org

A PLACE FOR YOU

Worship Experience — 11:00am

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

To place an ad, simply email or call KK German at kkgerman@gmail.com or 757-714-2335!

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Bob Williams - Owner
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Hi Neighbor, I'm a contractor in the neighborhood with over 40 years of experience. Every job I do is unique because every customer is unique.

I have completed sheds, small & large outdoor decks, porches, sunrooms and other room additions, including kitchen and bath renovations. Above all, I love a satisfied customer. So when you're ready to do that small or big home improvement, give me a call at (757) 270-9891 and let's talk!

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Sunday: 10:00AM to 7:00PM

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Ice-Cream, Boiled Peanuts,
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general merchandise, and much
more!**



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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(Continued from page 3)

The foundation changed its mission statement as to further refine the mission for the next few years. The organization focused on improving accessibility and safety along the trail. New enhancements, including better lighting, additional rest areas, and more community engagement initiatives, are in the works. Plans include introducing educational signage along the trail to highlight local history and environmental conservation efforts. The trail provides \$28 million in revenue to the City of Norfolk and the plan is to extend the trail to Naval Base Norfolk. The foundation is working with the City of Virginia Beach to extend the trail 10 miles through 21 neighborhoods. Funding is from public and private sources. To find out more on using the trail or getting involved through volunteer opportunities and local advocacy efforts, check out the foundation's website: <https://elizabethrivertrail.org/>.

Community Resource Officer Report

Officer Charles Dreer introduced himself and said he is replacing Officer Joseph Brown who has moved to harbor patrol. To reach him call: **(757) 353-1268**. There were no crimes reported for the previous 30 days. Please report any suspicious activity promptly. When asked about cars parked on Sellger Drive having large paper notices on their wind shields, he indicated that was from parking enforcement. There is a current rise in license plate larcenies as well as tags getting swapped. Watch your front and back plates every week and be sure you have no visible property of value exposed. Concern was also raised over a police response in the neighborhood. Officer Dreer noted he would investigate that concern.

The raffle was won by Kathy O'Hara who donated it to someone who had never attended a meeting before.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by KK German and seconded by Nick Masella and unanimously passed by all present. The meeting adjourned at 8:02.



Riverside Baptist Church

5768 Sellger Drive Norfolk, Virginia 23502

Phone: (757) 466-9461

Sunday School: 9:45am

Worship Service: 11:00am

<https://www.rbcnorfolk.org>

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Aldersgate United Methodist Church Is the NEW Polling Site For Our Area

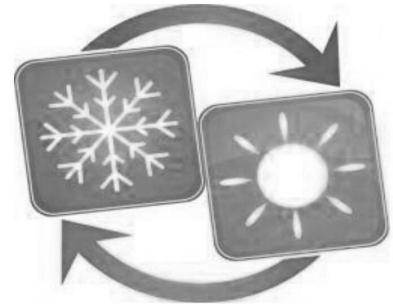
If you are a registered voter living in one of our three neighborhoods, take note that your polling site has changed. In the past we voted at Calvary Revival Church on Poplar Hall Drive. The new location will be a more convenient one for us at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 5767 Sellger Drive.

The first opportunity to use the new polling location will be on June 17 when a Democratic Primary will be held for the posts of lieutenant governor, attorney general, and commonwealth's attorney.

The general election will be held on Nov 4.



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General Membership Meeting
River Forest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League
April 14, 2025

President Edith Lizalde called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called on Second Vice President Liz Albert to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Financial report: Membership dues collected to date: \$312; Expenditures: \$80 after flyers and outreach materials, current balance is \$537 Residents were encouraged to continue supporting the league through membership dues: \$5/ year or \$12 for three years.

Community Resource Officer Report: Officer Charles Dreer introduced himself as the new CRO, succeeding Officer Joseph Brown. He provided his phone number (757-353-1268) as a way residents who might have public safety concerns to report. He noted there was one larceny from a vehicle on Faulk Road. Hand tools and a laptop were taken. He did not have any information about the high speed chase as it was handled by the state police.

Special Guest: Stephanie Isles, director of elections and general elections for the City of Norfolk, informed the membership present the new polling location for our neighborhoods would be Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The first election will be on June 17th. Voters must identify as Democrat or Republican and vote only for their chosen party's candidates for Lt. Governor. The Democrat ticket will also include candidates for Attorney General. November will be a big election for the state. The department is always looking for officers of the elections so she encouraged interested candidates to contact her at vote@norfolk.com.

Guest Speaker: Chris Whitney, chief planner, City of Norfolk: Mr. Whitney presented with Ann Tucker on the NFK 2050 comprehensive plan, which will guide Norfolk's development over the next 25 years.

This plan is a foundational document for land use by any city and is required by law in Virginia. It builds on the 2030 plan (<https://www.norfolk.gov/1376/plaNorfolk2030>). The City Planning Commission, appointed by City Council, directs the city planning efforts. The commission is guided by state law, and the goals, vision and values of the city of Norfolk. The framework is: Celebrating communities, Growing equity, Embracing nature, and Connecting the city.

Key topics included: Land use, flooding mitigation, transportation, zoning, affordable housing, resilience, and place-making, public art and celebrating community identity, creating a walkable, inclusive, and sustainable city, community engagement opportunities and how to sign up for project updates at norfolk.gov/NFK2050. Whitney answered questions on school planning, infrastructure influence, and the Planning Commission's role in guiding development.

Remarks by Second Vice President Liz Albert on the City Budget & Recreation Center: Mrs. Albert called for a written city commitment for a recreation center on the Eastside, equivalent to the \$68 million facility planned elsewhere. She emphasized the importance of equity in budgeting and city planning. She reviewed the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget and noted 44% goes to downtown and 45% to the Westside with 7% planned for the rest of the city. She noted \$1.5 million will be spent to repair the Military Highway bridge that goes over Virginia Beach Blvd. Mrs. Albert also reported that Norfolk Public Schools is planning to close 10 schools by 2030, starting in 2026. She is a member of the facilities committee that will be developing recommendations for the School Board. She encouraged residents to take the school system's community survey and to stay informed.

On the topic of Military Circle Mall redevelopment, she noted members of the civic league board will eventually meet with developers regarding the site. She emphasized the league's ongoing efforts to ensure Eastside community voices are included in future planning.

The door prize raffle was won by Ms. Jean Cope. Attendees were invited to stay for refreshments and informal conversation following the meeting. Residents were also reminded to invite neighbors to future meetings and to follow updates via email and the civic league website. A motion was made by Suzanne Duncan and seconded by Dustin Wallace to adjourn the meeting, passed by all present. The meeting adjourned at 8:09.



Sheriff Joe Baron



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Sold: \$350,000



335 E. McGinnis
Sold: \$305,000



321 E. McGinnis
Sold: \$320,000



236 E. McGinnis
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