

EASTSIDE EXPRESS

January 2026
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Councilman “JP” Paige to be our guest speaker on Jan. 12

Councilman John “JP” Paige will be the guest speaker for the civic league’s first meeting of 2026. So take note and plan to attend on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. As our Ward 4 representative, Councilman Paige has been a responsive advocate for our community and we can trust that he will give us the straight scoop on city plans, initiatives and programs.



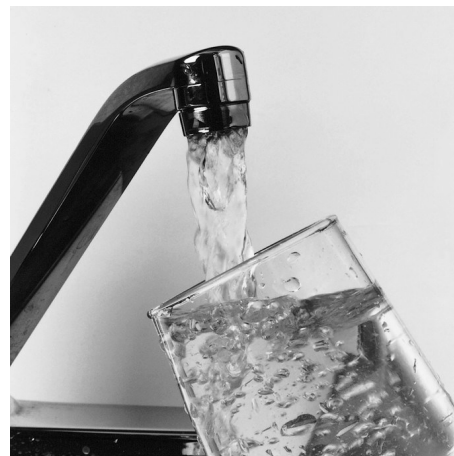
Eastside Norfolk residents have many issues to monitor such as plans for Military Circle redevelopment, a new recreation center/library, affordable housing initiatives, and adequate capital improvement funding, to name a few. Councilman Paige works as our partner in this oversight. He serves on the city’s Eastside Taskforce and in that role works to facilitate positive progress for Ward 4.

Councilman Paige has successfully operated a small bonding business for over 20 years. He previously served as an Adjunct Professor at his alma mater, Norfolk State University (NSU), after receiving his
(Continued on page 2)

City of Norfolk working to install automated water meters and to replace lead and copper pipes

The City of Norfolk Department of Utilities will be working to install automated water meters in 2026. The objective of this effort is for the city and its customers to have a more accurate methodology for assessing water charges.

In addition, the department will be working on its lead reduction program through replacing copper and lead pipes. Citizens can become part of this effort by completing and submitting the Material Self-Report form posted on the city’s website.



Citizens can find out the material of their water service line while also helping Norfolk improve its inventory. Even if a customer’s line is not lead, letting the city know can reduce the need to investigate your service line.

You will find the Material Self-Report form at <https://www.norfolk.gov/5839/Customer-Self-Reporting>.

Recycle Dates

Jan 5th & 19th
Feb 2nd & 16th
Street Sweeping:
Jan 23rd & Feb 27th

Help Keep our Neighborhood Clean

Bulk waste items: You must **schedule** the pick-up by **3 p.m. the day before** collection. Use mynorfolk.org or call 757-664-6510.
Yard waste: Collected on your normal trash day. Bag leaves and grass in clear plastic bags (or bundle branches) and place at the curb.

January Meeting

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

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

Charles.dreer@norfolk.gov

(Continued from page 1) Master of Science Degree (MS) in Management from Troy University in 1998. Other positions he has held at NSU include a leadership role in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management's Baccalaureate Program and as director of student services for the School of Business at NSU.

Councilman Paige is a proud veteran. He defended his country in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm as an airman in the United States Air Force. He also has been an active community volunteer serving as a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., and working on its youth initiative, Guide Right, and as a board member for Eggleston Services and Revive Community of Virginia, a non-profit organization that emphasizes building healthy, self-supporting communities through access and collaboration.

He and his wife, Djuna, have been married for more 25 years and are members of the Historic Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic parish.

If you can't attend a meeting, there's always Zoom

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/>

Officers set to get to work in 2026, but a recording secretary is still needed!

The individuals below were elected in last November's general membership meeting. **Please note there is still one crucial vacancy on the board - the recording secretary position.** We are hoping a volunteer from our community will step forward and become part of a board dedicated to ensuring our three neighborhoods stay safe and inviting places in which to live.

The duties of the recording secretary include taking minutes for general membership and board meetings and assisting the board with planning special events such as the annual fall picnic and Christmas party. The board is also working on the development of a strategic plan and is eager to include the input of a new recording secretary.

"Besides the duties described, I can attest civic league board service has its rewards. Number one, we have a great board that is supportive and a lot of fun. Number two, board members become knowledgeable and connected to the work of our city government. And finally, this service connects people to their neighbors in many productive ways. Please consider joining us and our efforts," says President Edith Lizalde.

President: Edith Lizalde

riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Kathy O'Hara

keohara@cox.net (757) 620-3304

2nd Vice President: Liz Albert

albertfamilyva@aol.com (757) 681-0131

Corresponding Secretary: Sunita Malik

binni73@gmail.com (757) 724-7500

Recording Secretary: Open Position

Treasurer: KK German

kkgerman@gmail.com (757) 714-2335

Trustee: Dustin Wallace

dustin_l-wallace@yahoo.com (210) 843-5059

First Vice Trustee: Garrett Beaver

garrettbeaver24@gmail.com

Second Vice Trustee: Maravia Reid

reidx2@cox.net



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

REALTOR®, CDPE, CIAS, ASP

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

November 10, 2025

President Edith Lizalde called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led those attending in the prayer and pledge.

Guest Speaker — Norfolk Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief Michael “Mike” Mowry (Third Battalion, C Shift; Special Operations) Chief Mowry shared the following seasonal/home safety highlights: Heating: Keep space heaters 3 ft clear; don't use ovens for heat; ensure tip-over shutoff and clear area. Cooking: Stay in the kitchen for stovetop; lid/cookie sheet to smother pan fires; turn off heat; never use water on grease fires; if not out immediately—evacuate and call 911. Home escape: Make and discuss a simple plan; sleep with bedroom doors closed; close doors when exiting to slow fire growth. Smoke alarms: Replace units every 10 years; long-life 10-year batteries recommended. CO alarms: Recommended for any fossil-fuel appliances/fireplaces; place high/on ceiling or upper wall (not near the floor); if alarm sounds, evacuate and call 911. Turkey fryers: Use outdoors 20–30 ft from structures; fully thawed birds; avoid over-fill. Christmas trees: Keep watered; away from vents/heat and exits; no open flames nearby. Chimneys: Annual Inspection/cleaning by a licensed chimney professional (creosote and liner issues are common causes of fires). Electrical: Avoid overloading outlets; no extension cords under rugs; extension cords are temporary use only; hire licensed electricians. Fire extinguishers: Get ABC type; remember PASS (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep). Disposal: Take used/expired units to the regional solid-waste transfer station on Woodlake Ave. Outreach programs: Smoke alarm installs (up to two per home) via Norfolk Cares. Hands-Only CPR and Stop the Bleed (can be delivered during a civic meeting). Fall Risk home assessments in partnership with local agencies. Opioid Response Team can provide Narcan and follow-up. Q&A: Disabled-evacuation planning (case-by-case); generator placement (never indoors; keep well away from openings); address numbers visible at night; CO alarm placement corrected (higher is better).

The civic league will explore scheduling a combined Hands-Only CPR + Stop the Bleed mini-training for a future meeting (coordinate with fire department).

Community Police Report: Officer Charles Dreer (CRO) Official stats: Larceny (5800 Sellger Dr.) — victim sought charges independently. Additional items discussed (from resident tips/crime-mapping radius): Burglary (5800 Curlew Dr., 10/25): Suspect located shortly after; closed by arrest. Late-night “car checks” on Lathan (approx. 2:45–5:00 AM): Individuals trying vehicle door handles; ongoing surveillance & resident camera coordination; share stills/footage with CRO. Suspicious vehicle/person at Lydia & Brenda: Subject identified, warned; follow-up contact with family; CRO monitoring. Frequent moped/motorcycle rider near Brenda/Jerry: Known local; generally non-threatening; call if disturbance occurs. Holiday details: Expect increased patrol presence around retail corridors (post-Thanksgiving). For in-progress activity, call 911 and be the best witness (location, direction, clothing). Keep and share camera stills/video with Officer Dreer; improve lighting where feasible. Vehicle tag grace remains up to four months (post-COVID policy noted). Boundary alignment: Current police report boundary excludes some nearby apartments/townhomes/areas (e.g., Water's Edge); consensus to pursue boundary refresh to improve situational awareness. Board to add boundary-update to strategic plan goals and coordinate with Lauren Richardson and NPD to redraw the CRO reporting map to include the broader area (apartments/townhomes/industrial corner as discussed).

Elections & Business

Approval of Minutes: September & October minutes (published in the November newsletter) approved by membership vote.

Polling Place Update: Bill Bunch (Aldersgate UMC Trustee) reported 920 voters at the new precinct location; city made site improvements; positive partnership.

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Food, fun and “thievery” at the annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Party and Neighborhood Holiday Parade kicked off!

Approximately 75 neighbors gathered at East Coast Gospel Lighthouse on Dec. 6 to celebrate the holiday season at the annual Georgia Robinson Christmas Party. The event also included the first annual Lisa Gragg Grab or Steal gift exchange.

In addition, one of our neighbors, Robyn Massella, with support from the civic league and Aldersgate United Methodist Church, initiated a neighborhood parade on Dec. 20 to view Christmas lights and decorations and also just to share some holiday spirit. The parade followed the church’s ceremonial tree lighting and live nativity. We hope it can become an annual event.





Aldersgate United Methodist Church

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk

AldersgateNorfolkUMC.org

A PLACE FOR YOU

Worship Experience — 9:00am

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!

Home Improvements

Bob Williams & Sons, Inc.

Bob Williams - Owner
Phone: 757.270.9891

Bobwnsons6@cox.net

322 Faulk Rd.
 Norfolk, VA
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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!



**President’s Corner:
Celebrating a Year of
Community Connection**
Edith Lizalde, President

As we close out another eventful year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we’ve accomplished together. From strengthening our membership to building new partnerships and sharing joyful traditions, 2025 has been a year of growth and community spirit for the RFS/WM/EP Civic League.

I’m proud to share that our annual membership drive met its goals—both in the number of members and the funds raised. Thank you to each and every neighbor who signed up, renewed, or encouraged someone else to join. Your support fuels our work and helps ensure our collective voice continues to be heard.

We also hosted a wonderful community picnic, made even more special by the presence of our Norfolk Police Chief, representatives from the Sheriff’s Department, and both of our City Council members—Councilman Carlos Clanton (Superward 7) and Councilman “JP” Paige (Ward 4)—who joined us to relax and enjoy time with our neighbors. It was a great day of food, fellowship, and fun.

In December, we celebrated the holidays with two signature events: our Georgia Lee Christmas Party and the re-named Lisa Gragg “Grab or Steal” Gift Exchange in honor of our beloved friend and corresponding secretary —with 70 attendees joining in the festivities. These gatherings are more than just parties—they’re moments where neighbors become friends, and friends become family.

We also had the joy of partnering with Aldersgate United Methodist Church for their Live Nativity, a beautiful reminder of the season’s meaning and a chance to share in faith and community with our local institutions.

As we look ahead to 2026, I hope you’ll continue to be part of this incredible work—by attending meetings, volunteering, sharing ideas, or simply showing up for one another. The Eastside is stronger because of *you*.

With gratitude,

Edith Lizalde

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(Continued from page 4)

Election of 2026 Officers: Conducted by Past President Debby Forehand. Slate (published): President: Edith Lizalde; First Vice President: Kathy O’Hara; Second Vice President: Liz Albert; Treasurer: KK German; Corresponding Secretary: Sunita Malik; Recording Secretary: Vacant (open), Trustee: Dustin Wallace; First Vice Trustee: Garrett Beaver; Second Vice Trustee: Maravia Reid. Nominations from the floor: None. Vote: Slate approved by voice vote. Congratulations to 2026 officers. Open role: Still seeking a Recording Secretary; referrals welcome.

Announcements: Georgia Robinson Christmas Dinner & Lisa Gragg “Grab or Steal” (Dirty Santa) Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM at East Coast Gospel Lighthouse (Sellger Dr. Civic League provides main/ sides/ rolls/ drinks; please bring a dessert. Gift exchange: bring a wrapped \$20 gift to participate. Thanks to all who brought snacks; informal social time followed.

Raffle conducted.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn approved by voice vote.

Civic league considering raising dues to address rising costs

For decades the civic league has adhered to the same dues structure - **\$5 per individual for one year and \$12 per individual for three years**. The cost of nearly everything we rely on to serve our neighborhood has increased. Just as families are feeling the rising cost of groceries and household supplies, the civic league is experiencing higher food costs for our special events. Additionally, we want to be more intentional about supporting requested events like trash-pick ups, community events like coffee and donuts at the park for our young families, and ongoing events like our annual picnic and holiday party.

The proposed new dues schedule will be discussed at the Jan. 12 meeting and a vote will take place in

February. If approved, the new fee schedule will go into effect during the April membership drive. Below is the proposal; note other suggestions are welcomed:

- \$10 per individual for 1 year
- \$15 per individual for 3 years
- \$15 for a household of 2 people for 1 year
- \$25 for a household of 2 people for 3 years

Please note, if you are currently a three-year member whose membership is not expiring in 2026, you will not pay the new cost until your membership expires.

In the meantime, here’s how members can give input on the proposal: 1) attend the Jan. 12 meeting and express your opinion; 2) email us at riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com; or 3) message the board via our Facebook page or post your opinion.

Thank you to all the residents who step up and become members. Membership merely supports us. You can volunteer if you like but dues are the lifeblood of our organization. You can still renew your dues before any changes go into effect. If you are not sure whether your membership has expired, reach out to KK German at 757-714-2335 (text is fine).

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Christy Siepert

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Riverside Baptist Church

5768 Sellger Drive Norfolk, Virginia 23502

Phone: (757) 466-9461

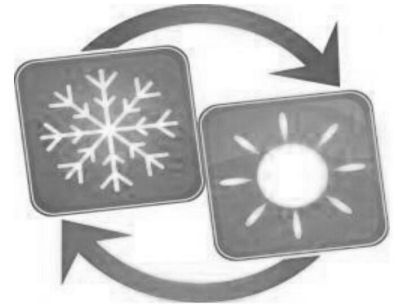
Sunday School: 9:45am

Worship Service: 11:00am

<https://www.rbcnorfolk.org>



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Civic League Membership Meeting dates for 2026

The River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League encourages your attendance at general membership meetings. Many important topics are addressed in these meetings from the City of Norfolk's latest plans and initiatives to resources available to us in the community.

Meetings are held at the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 5767 Sellger Drive. Meetings start at 7 pm.

Here are our meeting dates; please add them to your calendars:

Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, Sept. 14, Oct. 12 and Nov. 9.

Civic league working on the development of a strategic plan

This spring the civic league hopes to unveil a draft strategic plan for residents' input. The board has been working with Lauren Richardson, a neighborhood specialist with the Norfolk Neighborhood Services Department, on the development process. Key research included initiating a survey of residents last October and holding an input session at a recent membership meeting. These efforts have proved valuable to the board and our work. However, that doesn't mean your opportunity for input is over. If you have ideas and suggestions about what should be included in the new strategic plan, email us at riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com or message us through our Facebook page. Please note we want to know what you think this civic league's priorities should be. Past input has centered on increased police coverage, more recreational opportunities for children and families, a cleaner community, etc. Residents are also welcome to join us at in our board meetings. Typically there is time on our agenda to work with Ms. Richardson. The board meets the first Monday of each month.

Neighborhood Facebook page a valuable resource

Our neighborhood Facebook page has proved to be a good resource for neighbors seeking recommendations on services, for finding a lost pet or just sharing good news. Recent posts have ranged from pictures of the neighborhood holiday parade to the City of Norfolk's adoption of a new comprehensive plan. If you live in one of our three neighborhoods and haven't joined the conversation, please do so now.

Here's how you find us: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RFSCivicLeague>.

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Neighborhood Snapshot:

- ✓ Price Range: \$231K – \$460K
- ✓ Typical Home: 3–4 Beds | ~1,500–1,900 SqFt
- ✓ Time to Sell: ≈ 1 Month when priced right!
- ✓ Market: Low inventory but shifting market

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