

EASTSIDE EXPRESS

March & April 2026
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Our civic league: The oldest and the best in the City of Norfolk! Support what works by joining or renewing during the April Membership Drive

Did you know that our civic league is the oldest continuously operating civic league in the City of Norfolk? Treasurer KK German, Trustee Dustin Wallace and long-time member Clara Allen recently attended Norfolk’s Neighbors Building Neighborhood leadership breakfast. While there, they were advised by city officials of our civic league’s unique standing. Yes, the River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League has earned the respect and cooperation of city leadership because we provide our community effective advocacy.

April kicks off the RSF/WM/EP Civic League Membership Drive. Board members and volunteers will be reaching out to residents in various ways —via door-to-door visits, telephone, email and text. *We hope this article will encourage you to join or renew NOW before we even begin the drive! This civic league has delivered results to our three neighborhoods, from staving off closure of the Easton school building to hosting events that bring folks together to hosting accomplished speakers who give us insight into how city government and other organizations work to serve us. We also work hard to communicate with you - through our newsletter, Facebook page, website (eastsidecivicleague.com), Zoom meeting access (Continued on page 2)*



City of Norfolk’s Director of Budget & Strategic Planning to speak at March 9 civic league meeting

On March 9, Norfolk’s Director of Budget & Strategic Planning Charles Meek will address the civic league on the city’s budget

development process and what will likely prove to be priority areas for investment. This is an important membership meeting for residents to attend as our area has several projects we should keep updated on and advocate for — specifically Military Circle redevelopment and a promised combined recreation center/library. The meeting, which will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, will begin at 7 p.m.

The city develops its operating budget (which pays for personnel, city services and special projects) and its capital improvement budget (which underwrites the cost of infrastructure such as street improvements, utility upgrades, building renovations and new construction) on a fiscal year basis. The new 2026-27 fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2026 and run through June 30, 2027.

Typically the city manager presents his budget recommendations to City Council in April and City Council then deliberates on it with the goal of adopting a municipal budget, which includes school funding, in mid-May.

Mr. Meek joined the city staff last May.
(Continued on page 2)

Recycle Dates

Mar 16th & 30th
Apr 13th & 27th
Street Sweeping:
Mar 27th & Apr 24th

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.

March Meeting

Will be held in the social hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on March 9th, 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)

He has over 25 years of municipal government experience. Prior to his present position in Norfolk, he served the City of Suffolk as director of finance overseeing budget, accounting/payroll, and procurement functions.

He also previously served in various other roles with the City of Suffolk including assistant director of finance/budget, budget manager, and senior administrative analyst. During his career in Suffolk, Mr. Meek was responsible for coordination and development of the annual operating and capital budget; revenue and expenditure projections; grants management; and bond issuance and equipment financing. He also previously served as assistant to the county administrator in Isle of Wight County, as redevelopment and grants director for the Town of Shenandoah, and as a community development specialist in the private sector.

If you can't make it to the March 9th meeting, consider attending via Zoom

If you can't be physically present for the March 9 general membership meeting, but you really want to hear about the city's budget priorities, you have an option open to you. You can attend via Zoom! Just visit the Zoom page on our website at <https://eastsidecivicleague.org/zoom-meetings/>.

(Continued from page 1)

and email mailing list. We hope you, like the civic league board members, are proud to be part of a civic league that ranks as the longest serving one in this city and as a force for progress - from securing the city's commitment to build a recreation center-library for the Eastside to lobbying for the improvement of Norfolk schools, especially in the area of improving capital spending on aging schools.

Please support the civic league by joining or renewing as soon as possible. Here are the membership options:

- \$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

And here's how you can pay: 1) Submit your dues through Paypal. Here's a link to that page: <https://eastsidecivicleague.org/membership>; 2) Call any of the board members listed and we will pick them up from you; 3) Bring your dues to the next membership meeting. Please note that there is a membership application form on page 8 of this newsletter

Volunteers needed to help with the April Membership Drive!

The civic league is need of volunteers who will help with the membership drive. Volunteers will be provided identifying badges, clipboards and, of course, membership applications. It is the civic league's goal to contact anyone who needs to renew his or her membership or join for the first time. **If you can help, please call Liz Albert, second vice president and membership chair, at 757-681-0131.**

2026 Board of Officers

President: Edith Lizalde

riverforrestcivicleague@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Kathy O'Hara

keo12588@gmail.com (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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River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League General Membership Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2026

President Edith Lizalde called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and noted that the meeting was being recorded via Zoom for record-keeping purposes. She then welcomed members and guests and invited all present to stand for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Installation of 2026 Officers Past President Debby Forehand conducted the formal installation of officers for the 2026 term. The following individuals were installed: President Edith Lizalde; First Vice President Kathy O'Hara; Second Vice President Liz Albert; Corresponding Secretary Sunita Malik; Treasurer KK German; Trustee Dustin Wallace; First Vice Trustee Garrett Beaver. Second Vice Trustee Maravia Reid was not present and will be installed at a later date. The position of Recording Secretary remains open.

Quorum Confirmation First Vice Trustee Garrett Beaver confirmed that a quorum of members in good standing was present, allowing the civic league to conduct official business.

Community Police Report Officer Charles Dreer provided an update on recent activity within and near the civic league boundaries. He reviewed reported incidents over the past month and discussed general trends affecting surrounding Eastside neighborhoods. Officer Dreer reminded residents that property-related crimes — particularly theft from vehicles — continue to occur citywide. He encouraged neighbors to remove valuables from vehicles, lock car doors, and ensure exterior lighting is functioning properly. He also emphasized the importance of reporting suspicious behavior promptly. After a brief question and answer period, Officer Dreer encouraged continued communication and welcomed residents to share camera footage or still images directly with him when appropriate.

Councilman John "JP" Paige, Ward 4, Guest Speaker Councilman Paige served as the featured speaker for the meeting and provided a comprehensive update on several initiatives impacting Ward 4 and the broader Eastside community. He began by addressing continued progress surrounding the Military Circle redevelopment project, noting that planning and feasibility efforts remain underway. He emphasized that redevelopment will be transformational in scope and is intended to include mixed-use housing, retail, recreation amenities, and improved infrastructure. Councilman Paige reiterated the importance of ensuring that Eastside residents benefit equitably from the project's long-term economic impact. The Councilman also discussed other topics such as the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the city's ongoing investment priorities, the pressing need for affordable housing, and concerns about city responsiveness using Norfolk Cares. He reaffirmed his commitment to transparency, accessibility and advocacy for Ward 4 neighborhoods. He thanked residents for their active participation and encouraged continued collaboration between the civic league and city leadership. During the question-and-answer portion, residents raised concerns regarding street paving and infrastructure maintenance; drainage and localized flooding; public safety coordination; and recreation and youth programming access and equitable investment in Eastside neighborhoods. Councilman Paige responded to each inquiry, explaining current processes, timelines, and funding considerations.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the previously published meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Update: Treasurer KK German provided a brief financial update and reminded members that the full-year 2025 audited financial report would be presented at the February meeting in accordance with the bylaws.

New Business: The proposed 2026 membership dues adjustment was presented for discussion. Members were reminded that dues have remained unchanged for decades while event and operational costs have steadily increased. President Lizalde noted the proposal would be brought forward for a vote at the February meeting.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

(see page 8 for the swearing in of officers image)

River Forrest Shores/Wayside Manor/Easton Place Civic League General Membership Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2026

President Edith Lizalde called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. She noted that the meeting was being recorded via Zoom for record-keeping purposes. She then led those in attendance in a moment of reflection, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Community Police Report Officer Charles Dreer reported that no crimes were recorded in our neighborhoods between January 12 and February 9, 2026. He then shared that citywide one of the most persistent issues continues to involve unsecured firearms. He emphasized that firearms are frequently stolen during vehicle break-ins or taken during social gatherings when weapons are not properly secured. These stolen firearms often later appear in unrelated criminal incidents. He encouraged residents to secure their firearms. Officer Dreer also noted that proposed legislative changes may increase accountability for gun owners whose unsecured firearms are used in crimes.

Guest Speaker Lt. Jason Lovitz of Norfolk Fire-Rescue In recognition of February being American Heart Month, Lt. Lovitz delivered a presentation on hands-only CPR and emergency response. Lt. Lovitz explained that in cardiac arrest situations, bystander intervention is critical, as brain injury can begin within minutes if circulation is not restored. While Fire-Rescue units are often able to arrive within 4 minutes once dispatched, valuable time is lost during the initial moments before a 911 call is placed and processed.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Hands-only CPR consists of firm, rapid chest compressions in the center of the chest;
- Compressions should be delivered at a steady pace of approximately 100–120 compressions per minute;

Lt. Lovitz also emphasized the importance of AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and encouraged residents to familiarize themselves with AED locations in public spaces. He then answered questions by attendees, including:

- 911 call delays: He acknowledged current staffing challenges at dispatch centers and reinforced the importance of staying on the line and following dispatcher instructions.
- When to begin CPR: Residents were advised that if a person is unresponsive and not breathing normally, CPR should begin immediately after calling 911.
- Confidence in helping: Lt. Lovitz reassured attendees that imperfect CPR is far better than no action at all and encouraged community members to act without fear of “doing it wrong.”

Financial Report Treasurer KK German presented the audited financial report for the period ended December 31, 2025. The report was audited by the Trustees in accordance with the civic league bylaws. The Treasurer highlighted the league’s overall financial position. The audited budget is available for viewing on our website under Budget Reports.

Trustee Report and 2026 Budget Trustee Dustin Wallace, speaking on behalf of the Trustees, presented the proposed 2026 Civic League budget. He explained that the budget was developed following review of prior year expenses and anticipated costs. After discussion, the proposed 2026 budget was presented to the membership for a vote. The 2026 budget was approved by the membership.

Membership Dues Increase: A motion was proposed to increase the membership dues in 2026 and was approved by the membership.

New Business, Announcements and Adjournment Additional new business items were discussed, including ongoing neighborhood matters and upcoming civic league activities. Attendees were reminded of future meeting dates and opportunities for engagement. Appreciation was expressed to residents for their continued involvement and support of the civic league’s work. A motion to adjourn was made and approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.



Share a snack and good conversation at next civic league meeting

The civic league is asking members to consider bringing a snack to the next civic league meeting (March 9) to share with neighbors. This meeting will feature Norfolk Director of Budget & Strategic Planning Charles Meek.

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!



Home Improvements
Bob Williams & Sons, Inc.
Bob Williams - Owner
Phone: 757.270.9891
Bobwnsons6@cox.net
 322 Faulk Rd.
 Norfolk, VA
 23502
State Registered and Insured

I have a lot of happy customers in the 'hood. Call me and I will let you know what projects your neighbors had me build for them!

Bobwnsons6@cox.net

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:
Springing Forward Together**
Edith Lizalde, President

March and April bring a renewed sense of energy in our neighborhoods. Spring has a way of reminding us that growth takes intention — and that's exactly the season our civic league is in.

One of our major focuses this spring is the development of our strategic plan. Over the past several months, your board has been reviewing survey responses, discussing priorities, and working alongside our Neighborhood Specialist, Lauren Richardson, to outline clear goals for the future of River Forrest Shores, Wayside Manor, and Easton Place. The input many of you shared — from public safety concerns to beautification efforts and family-friendly programming — is shaping this plan in meaningful ways. We look forward to sharing a draft soon and inviting your continued feedback.

We are also entering membership season. Our civic league is entirely supported by neighbors like you. Whether you attend every meeting or simply appreciate knowing someone is advocating for our community, your dues make a difference. They support community events like the annual picnic and holiday celebration, and allow us to respond when neighborhood needs arise. If you haven't renewed yet, I encourage you to do so — and if you're new to the neighborhood, we would love to welcome you.

This time of year also brings opportunities to get involved in hands-on ways. From neighborhood clean-ups to upcoming meetings and community conversations, there are many ways to participate. Even something as simple as joining our Facebook page, sharing information with a neighbor, or attending one meeting helps strengthen our collective voice.

Our civic league exists to “encourage and promote civic betterment” in our neighborhoods — but that mission only works when we do it together. I'm grateful for the board members who give their time each month and for the many neighbors who step up quietly behind the scenes.

Spring is a season of possibility. Let's continue building a neighborhood we're proud to call home.
With gratitude,

Edith Lizalde

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2026 Officers Sworn In

Officers for the 2026 calendar year were officially sworn in at the Jan. 12 civic league meeting. Past President Debby Forehand presided. From left are Edith Lizalde, president; Kathy O’Hara, first vice president; Liz Albert, second vice president; Sunita Malik, corresponding secretary; Dustin Wallace, trustee; Garrett Beaver, first vice trustee; and KK German, treasurer. Not pictured is Maravia Reed, second vice trustee. The civic league is still in need of a recording secretary. We are hopeful a member will step in and volunteer for this post!

RFS/WM/EP Civic League Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

- Membership options:** ___ one-year membership for individual at \$10
 ___ one-year membership for 2 people at \$15
 ___ three-year membership for individual at \$15
 ___ three-year membership for 2 people at \$25



Please make check payable to **RFS/WM/EP Civic League**. Mail or drop off to KK German, Treasurer, 5924 Jerry Road, Norfolk, VA 23502, 757-714-2335.

If you choose to use PayPal, or a debit or credit card, please use the QR code above to access the membership page on our website at eastsidecivicleague.org.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Christy Siepert

Burial.. Cremation.. Undecided?

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Riverside Baptist Church

5768 Sellger Drive Norfolk, Virginia 23502

Phone: (757) 466-9461

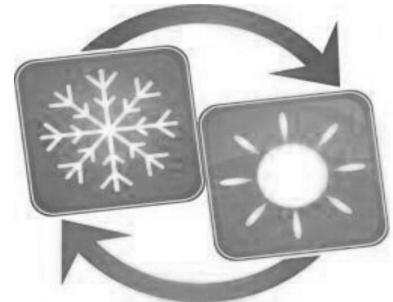
Sunday School: 9:45am

Worship Service: 11:00am

<https://www.rbcnorfolk.org>



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River Forrest Shores 2026 Home Value Update

What Your Neighbors' Homes Are Actually Selling For

Neighborhood Snapshot:

- ✓ Price Range: \$167K – \$509K
- ✓ Typical Home: 3–4 Beds | ~1,500–2,000 SqFt
- ✓ Avg Time to Sell: ≈ 30 Days when priced right
- ✓ Market: Low inventory, but shifting — preparation and pricing are critical

Why Neighbors Choose Us:

- ✓ Proven results in River Forrest Shores
- ✓ H.E.L.P. coordinating pre-listing repairs
- ✓ Trusted guidance with probate/estate sales
- ✓ Veteran owned and operated

Get a Clear Home Value & Selling Plan for 2026.

You've built years of equity here. Make sure the right team helps you unlock it.



Recently Sold

6018 Rolleston Ave | Norfolk

Sold for \$425,000

3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,728 SqFt

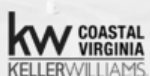
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THE NSO'S CORE VALUES:

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THE NSO'S MISSION STATEMENT:

VALUE-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC SERVICE, AND PUBLIC TRUST. THIS INCLUDES PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT OF LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

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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.

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 grabbers, trash bags and safety vests.



Neighbors regularly participate in trash pickup efforts.

New volunteers are welcome to join in!

BAY AREA GLASS

Same or next day service in most cases!



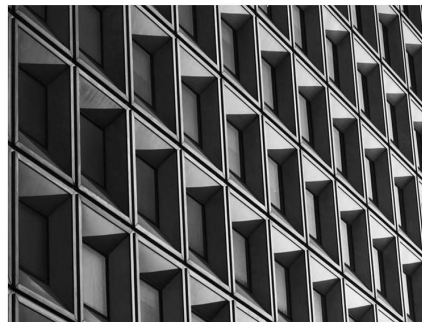
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