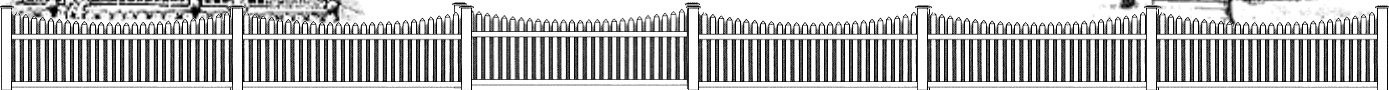




# PORCH TALK



## November 2010



**Port Norfolk Civic League, P. O. Box 7114, Portsmouth VA 23707**

### Board Contacts

**President:**  
Phillip DeSiano  
399-7526

**Vice-President:**  
Dorothy Parker  
399-1498

**Treasurer:**  
Carolyn Wyatt  
399-3754

### Acting Recording Secretary:

**Secretary:**  
Sarah Wilson  
392-0312

### Corresponding Secretary:

Judy Higgins  
399-4122

### CAR/Stabilization:

Jon Lifsey  
399-2383

### Environmental:

Madalyn Grimes  
397-0090

### Homes Tour:

Yvonne DeSiano  
399-7526

### Fountain Park

### Reflection Walk:

Debbie Foytik  
397-7164

### Welcoming:

Judy Higgins  
399-4122

### Membership:

Gail Hoofnagle  
397-2730

### Recreation

### Publicity/Porch Talk:

Vicky Murza  
647-3899

### Webmaster:

Rich Brinkley  
393-3618

### Ways and Means:

Cate Harrison

### Civic League Meeting

The next Civic League meeting is scheduled for:

**Thursday November 4, 2010 7:00 pm**

Monthly meetings are held in the  
Port Norfolk Recreation Center at 432 Broad Street.

Guest speaker Keisha Cutler from CINCH will be giving a presentation specific to the *Portsmouth Walks* Project.

*Healthy Portsmouth* is a new initiative created by a team of community leaders committed to changing the policies, systems and environments that affect our neighborhoods, schools and workplaces to improve the health of Portsmouth citizens. A Community Action Plan for Portsmouth has been created as a result of input provided by residents at recent community forums and additional information gathered through community assessments. One of the goals of this plan is to create a more "walkable" community to increase physical activity particularly for youth. *Healthy Portsmouth* is partnering with the residents of Port Norfolk to implement the *Portsmouth Walks* project over the next year to create a model "walkable" neighborhood. For more information join the *Healthy Portsmouth* page on Facebook to stay abreast of the latest developments and resources.

### Play Date

Permanent Play Date for young and old at Fountain Park on Saturdays at 3pm. Come play and meet your neighbors. Bring croquet sets, baseball bats and balls, soccer balls, your friends. Questions? Call Sarah Wilson, 392-0312.

### Porch Lights

Please keep your porch lights on at night. It helps reduce crime.

### It's Election Season

Come take part in the Port Norfolk Civic League election nominations. Attend the next Civic League meeting to participate in floor nominations. Any member in good standing can be nominated for a position on the board. You can even nominate yourself. We need you to help us make our community a better place to live!

### Holiday Celebration Craft Fair

To benefit the restoration of the Portsmouth Community Library (the former segregated library) and the reopening of the building as the Portsmouth African American Museum Saturday, November 13, 10am-4pm at I.C. Norcom High School.

### Caution

The dirt in the former Port Norfolk Elementary School site may have high levels of contaminants in it! Do not let your kids or dogs play in it! Call 393-8008 (Citizen Concern Line) if there is not fencing around the dirt by the time you read this (or even if there is because additional tests should have been taken before that dirt was dug up).

**IN AN EMERGENCY— PLEASE CALL 911.**

**Port Norfolk's NEAT Officer is Portsmouth's Top Cop, Chris Gilmore. Please contact him if you see anything suspicious happening in the neighborhood. 757-235-5655**

For Board member email addresses, visit our website at [www.portnorfolk.org](http://www.portnorfolk.org)

# PORCH TALK-NOVEMBER 2010

Port Norfolk Civic League  
www.publicity@portnorfolk.org



## Holiday Tour of Homes



This year's Holiday Tour of Homes will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2010, 3-7 pm. Advance ticket price will be \$12.00 and may be purchased at Village Hair Design, Lofty Bean, and Pizza Box located in Port Norfolk. Visitors may also purchase advanced tickets at Anderson-Wright and Kitchen Koop in Olde Towne Portsmouth. Additionally, tickets will be sold on the day of the tour for \$14.00 at Port Norfolk Community Center, beginning at 12 o'clock noon. Military (w/identification) and their families may obtain tickets for half-price. Parking is available on the street or the Community Center parking lot. On the day of the tour a Christmas concert will be performed at the Port Norfolk Community Center, beginning at 3:00 pm. Admission is free and does not require purchasing tour tickets. Music will also be featured in many of the homes on tour. Port Norfolk's churches have also been invited to open their doors for tour guests. The Portsmouth Mounted Police are also invited to participate in the festivities. This year we will be serving refreshments for tour ticket holders from porches of homes, not on the tour. To add even more ambiance to the event, we are planning to have "attended" open wooden fires along the tour route.

Most of you have heard me say this many times before, but it bears repeating. The Holiday Tour of homes provides our neighborhood with funds that benefit its historic preservation. It also provides an opportunity to showcase our unique community. For that reason, we encourage and welcome all Port Norfolk residents to take part in this event. We need your help! Homes are still needed for the tour. Volunteers are needed in every aspect of this event (selling tickets, distributing flyers, assisting as a host/hostess, baking and/or donating baked good, serving refreshments, and/or attending fires, along tour route). I'll be passing around a sign-up sheet at the next League meeting. If you cannot make the meeting and want to volunteer, please call 399-7526. If you cannot volunteer, another way you can help is to clean and decorate your homes and lawns by December 5<sup>th</sup>, the tour date. Or simply take the tour and invite your family and friends. Volunteering is a wonderful way to thank your neighbors who have worked so hard restoring, painting, gardening, and turning their homes into show places. Seeing the results of their labors give all of us reason to take pride and be proud we live in Port Norfolk!

If you are considering opening your home for this year's tour, *Guidelines for Homeowners on Tour* is on our website [www.portnorfolk.org](http://www.portnorfolk.org) for If you have additional questions, call 399-7526, Yvonne Lerner-DeSiano.

Article submitted by: Yvonne Lerner-DeSiano



## The Old PNES site / Detroit Park Update

Act Now! Let City Council know we want to protect the green spaces in our community and protect unsuspecting home buyers from flooding.

This is an important issue for the Port Norfolk community. If you have not reviewed the City of Portsmouth's Destination 2025, the master plan for the City's future development, we encourage you to do so <http://www.portsmouthva.gov/planning/compmain.aspx>. To quote Destination 2025, "At approximately three and a half percent, the acreage of park/open space uses as a proportion of the total land area of the City is relatively low compared to 1) the norm for many other cities and 2) accepted national standards". Also on the flood management plan for the city this parcel is listed as a repetitive loss site.

If you have not been keeping up with the site development proposed at the old Port Norfolk Elementary School site, also known fondly as Detroit Park, let us bring you up to date!

At first, Hulls Creek Properties showed a proposal for 44 homes. Hulls Creek Properties along with the City held community meetings and their plan was revised to 40 homes on August 16th. After their engineer from Hoggard-Eure, who also sits on the City's Planning Commission, studied the site, Hulls Creek Properties revised their plan again. This was presented to City Council on 27 September at the Bide-A-Wee Pavilion. This site was reduced to 23 homes with a green space that was to be developed into a restored Hull Creek wetland. In actuality it will be a retention pond. These revised plans have not been presented to the community. Our Port Norfolk Civic league offered to meet with Hulls Creek Properties however they were not interested in meeting in a public forum. If you want to learn more about the history of this deal between the developer and the city, you can go to the Portsmouth Virginia Department of Economic Development website at <http://www.portsmouthvaed.com/old-port-norfolk-site.html>.

For those of you on Facebook, there is now a page under the profile of Green Port Norfolk. Feel free to become a friend! If you do not participate on Facebook, please at least review a you-tube video that brings some concerns about this site to light. This can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Dxv9eHT9hM&h=328a2>

Because the City can not make the deal directly with the Developer, City Council will be transferring the property to the Portsmouth Virginia Department of Economic Development so that they can sell the property to Hulls Creek Properties. Your opinion counts and we encourage you to come to the next City Council meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. We suspect the vote will take place at this meeting. Register to be a speaker call 393-8639 to reserve a time to speak. Let your voice be heard.

Article submitted by: Erika Nester

## 2010 Port Norfolk Civic League Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday Month(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Park Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or take this form with \$5.00 for each membership to Gail Hoofangle at 2919 Adriatic.  
Park donations should be mailed to Port Norfolk Civic League, P.O. Box 7114, Portsmouth VA 23707.