

Newsletter

NCMP Quarterly Civic League and Community Organization Messenger

What is a Civic League?

A civic league is a nonprofit, neighborhood organization whose primary goal and interest is the improvement and quality of life in the neighborhood. It allows citizens to find a voice in local government and issues in areas that go outside the vote. Civic leagues are organizations that work on behalf of neighborhood residents to coordinate infrastructure activities with city agencies. It might be potholes, overgrown trees or bushes, criminal activity, or just an idea that a new stop sign is needed on a particular intersection.

Civic Leagues provide city agencies a point-of-contact within a neighborhood to work on issues, projects and disseminate information. Running a city is a difficult and complex task, and many things go overlooked even though city agencies are more than happy to do needed work to maintain neighborhoods. A Civic League gives residents and citizens of a neighborhood someone to talk to about the potholes or needed stop sign. Civic league members will maintain contact information within different agencies, they will know who to call, who to talk to and who to write letters to get work done. Civic Leagues act on behalf of the Neighborhood and help assist in simply getting things done.

In many cases, members of a civic league will organize community events. These might include picnics or cookouts, cleanup days, community yard sales, parades, sports games or more. They create events to help create community and improve the quality of life. These events serve as a way for neighbors to meet and enjoy (See page 2, col. 2)

Focusing on Strengthening Democracy and Local Governance

Chesapeake is one of the most diverse suburbs in the United States. We have excellent schools and operate in a fiscally conservative mode; however, the city lacks infrastructure and amenities appropriate for a city of this size.

The New Chesapeake Men for Progress, Inc., has taken the initiative to engage civic leagues and community organizations to change the city council and school board to be more sensitive to the needs and concerns of all citizens rather than simply those voting for them. We have visited with six civic leagues to find out the major concerns, problems, of needs in their neighborhoods. Listed below are the concerns or problems shared with us by the civic leagues:

- Elimination of flooding in South Norfolk, Pughsville, Deep Creek, and Crestwood.
- Provides sidewalks in minority neighborhoods for our students and resident to connect safely with schools and other community facilities...
- Install signage in neighborhoods through streets to improve safety.
- Eliminate conditional use permits for "level II Home Occupation Business" in residential neighborhoods.
- Protect citizens from the harmful effects of fly ash.
- Need of a community center in Crestwood.

As a nonpartisan corporation, the Chesapeake Men for Progress is pursuing solutions to these problems and concerns by engaging the city manager, school board

(See page. 2, col. 1)

Concerns:

Council members and the city council as a governing body. We have been engaged in this process since February 2021. We put forth an agenda which included a convocation center, performing arts center, sports complex a swimming pool, and improvement in diversity and inclusion at the city department level. Almost all of the facility requests were deemed council priorities, but unfunded; However, we are getting the city’s first public swimming pool at the Dr. Clarence Cuffee Community Center.

We have arrived at the conclusion, we will have difficulty obtaining our quality of life priorities, we will have to change the makeup of city council and school board, and elect candidates sensitive to our concerns and accountable to us. With five seats on the 2026 ballot, we need elect members of our choosing who will be responsive to us.

This is why the NCMP, community organizations, and civic leagues must come together strengthen democracy in local governance that is city council and School Board.

Your Vote Matters

In 2024, the NCMP initiated an intensive canvassing effort in six targeted neighborhoods based on patterns low and erratic voting. The goal was to increase voter participation by 10%, a level believed was necessary to elect democrats to city council and school board. The result was encouraging. Voter turnout improved dramatically in some communities. It doubled or, in one case, it even tripled. This uptick in voter participation translated into electoral victories for candidates running for local office. In sharp contrast, 60% of the NCMP supported candidates for local office won their races in the 2024 election.

NCMP President, Clifton Randolph, states that “it is easy to overlook the importance of the elections for local offices because people don’t realize that these

See “Your Vote” page 3, col. 1.

Civic leagues

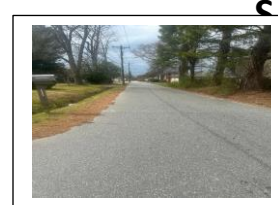
each other company. In a time, where many people are increasingly disassociated with their neighbors because of jobs, families and other commitments, civic leagues organized events provide a neighborhood meeting place for old friends and neighbors to reconnect.

Generally, civic leagues has members, who pay dues that are used to help cover the cost of neighborhood events, beautification projects, etc. Civic League are typically managed by an elected board of directors who are tasked with writing and maintaining Bylaws, minutes, and a budget. The Board of directors conducts meetings using Parliamentary procedure, giving a democratic process to proceedings and decisions.

In sum, a civic league is a group of neighbors, organized together to work toward improving the neighborhoods, encouraging neighbors to engage each other, and seeking to improve overall quality of life.

Ditches Flooding

Chesapeake has more than its share of ditches, especially in minority neighborhood. In addition to pedestrian safety, the ditches present possible health problems for citizens.



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Your Vote

local office holders, especially the people that we elect to City Council and the School Board, control the City of Chesapeake's budget; land development; the availability of public transportation; policing; availability of sidewalks; prevention of flooding, real estate and personal property taxes, roads, quality of schools; availability of recreation centers, and so much more. These local office holders, says Randolph, "make the decisions that control our day-to-day quality of life".

Local office holders are those serving on City Council; School Board; and the five constitutional Offices, that is, Sheriff; Clerk of Court; Treasurer; Commission of Revenue; and Commonwealth Attorney.

For the 2025 and 2026 elections the NCMP is building on the techniques that served them well in 2024 election. The NCMP is scaling up 2024 canvassing program so that all of the strategically important communities in Chesapeake will benefit as to the handful of neighborhoods included in the 2024 version of the program.

Currently, the NCMP has met with more than six civic leagues and key community groups, offering presentations on the 2024 election, such as surveying the audience to learn of issues or concerns, and bring people who are considering a run for local office so that the audience can meet them and so potential candidates for local office can learn from them what the communities expect of their elected Local leaders. Not knowing the candidates was one of the key discoveries found out during neighborhood canvassing.

It is very important that voters know who the candidates are, what the issues are, where to vote, and who represents best represent their issues.

Ditches

Flooding and ditches causes our school children to walk in the street to get to school and residents walk in the street to connect with the neighbors. This poses a variety of safety problems for them. The ditches hold water which cause potential health problems. Mosquitos congregate and bite people and possibly transmitting malaria, Dengue fever, West Nile virus, Eastern Equine encephalitis and St Louis encephalitis.

Most people have no symptoms or only mildly symptomatic similar to a headache, fever, chills, nausea, and vomiting. Mosquitos are most active at dusk and dawn, protect yourselves by using repellants, wearing long sleeves and pant during these times.

Fly Ash

Fly Ash is being experienced by residents in South Norfolk and bears paying attention to and abated. Fly Ash contains toxic elements such as arsenic, lead, and mercury. Fly Ash particles when inhaled can form residue and settle in our lungs thereby triggering asthma, inflammation and immunological reactions. Doctors has linked Fly Ash particles to death caused heart disease, cancer, respiratory disease and strokes. To protect yourself, close doors when possible; don't use appliances that suck air into your home; don't smoke; and clean it from surfaces with a damp cloth. Be mindful that Fly Ash is a health issue and everything should be done to reduce and eliminate it in our neighborhoods.

Fly Ash has been proven to pollute soil, air and water when it is not stored or disposed of properly.

NCMP 2025 Chesapeake Civic and community Engagement Forum

The NCMP conducted its 2025 Chesapeake Civic and Community Engagement Forum Saturday April 19, 2025, in the New Mount Olive A.M.E Church, 1953 Campostella Road. The forum purpose was to engage civic leagues and community organization leaders to join in strengthening Democracy and local governmental bodies, namely, Chesapeake City Council and School Board. The effort was designed to share unaddressed concerns in neighborhood, and focused on electing candidates that will address concerns, especially in minority neighborhoods.

More than forty people attended the event which included nine (9) civic leagues and several community organization leaders, namely, president of the Chesapeake Branch of NAACP, and the president of Chesapeake Coalition of Black Pastors. The group is strategically planning to help elect candidates that represent our concerns and vision for the city. The 2025 and 2026 elections are pivotal point wherein we can elect up to five people on the City Council and School Board.

The forum provided an opportunity to meet several candidate for political office at the state and local levels. We shared neighborhood issues with them that we obtained during our civic league meetings and provided opportunities for each of them to share his or her vision for the city.

As we move forward meeting with Civic Leagues, consulting with the City Manager, and Council Members, we expect to make our city truly an excellent place to live, work, farm, and play. Between now and the election in 2026, we will be engaging civic league and community organization leaders to join us in addressing City Council and School Boards on issues relevant to our neighborhoods. We will need ‘Boots on the Ground’. **Be ready when we call you.**



Convocation Center and Performing Arts Venue

A convocation center and performing arts building has been part of the NCMP Legislative Agenda since February 2021. They are part of the city council priority agenda but unfunded. While the city council have found funding for items such as a 1500 slot parking lot at Summit Point; Frank T. William Farm, and securing LS GreenLink for 12 million in grants an another 3 million in infrastructure preparation.

Yet, they have not provided any funds for correcting the serious flooding on Bainbridge Boulevard in South Norfolk which has been declared as a City Council unfunded priority and nor have they dealt with flooding in Pughsville, Crestwood, Fernwood Farm and Deep Creek.

How long are we as citizen going to tolerate our seniors going to Norfolk to graduate, high school swimming teams without a city facility to practice much less have a swimming meet. How long are we going to tolerate our kids walking in the dangerous street to get to school because there are no sidewalks? How long are we going to keep transporting our kids to Hampton, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach to view performing arts renditions?

According to *the City's Popular Annual Financial Report* for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the city's overall net position was \$2.2 billion, \$2.4 billion in 2023, and a net position of \$2.6 billion for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The \$2.6 billion was an increase of \$161.5 million or 6.8% from the prior year. This increase in net position was attributable to the excess of revenue over expenses in governmental and business type activities. On page 12, of the *2024, Popular Annual Financial Report*, the city's overall net financial position is \$2,553.6 billion.

Surely, some of that money can be spent on flood control, performing arts, convocation center, sports complex, sidewalks, and the eliminations of some of the ditches in our neighborhoods.

The November 2025 Election is Approaching.

Five local offices will appear on your ballot in November, but none of these races will show up on your democratic primary ballot.

The republican incumbent Chesapeake Treasurer has decided that he will not run for reelection. Dr. Gregory Crawford has announced his candidacy for this office.

The incumbent Commissioner of the Revenue, Victoria Proffitt, is running for reelection. The democratic nominee is [Jennifer Naperala](#).

A word from Jennifer Naperala: I'm Jennifer Naperala and I am running to serve as Chesapeake's Commissioner of the Revenue. I've been a classroom teacher for Chesapeake Public Schools for the past 23 years; I hope our paths have crossed at some point. My work is how I became familiar with the financial burdens of taxation that exist for all of us, especially for working-class and lower-income citizens. As Chesapeake's Commissioner of the Revenue, my top priority will be to explore all avenues to eliminate wasteful spending and to provide equitable administration of local taxes. I hope to earn your trust and support.

The republican incumbent Sheriff, David Rosado, faces a challenger in the republican primary, brought by Wallace Chadwick. The democrats have no candidate for this office.

The democratic incumbent Commonwealth Attorney, [Matt Hamel](#), is running for reelection. Because he has no primary challenger, he is the democratic nominee and he is promoting his campaign in various social media outlets, including [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

A word from Matt Hamel: Matt Hamel, the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Chesapeake announced that he will be seeking reelection for another 4-year term. The election is this November. Matt is very proud to highlight the work of the Elder Abuse Task Force that was created his first year in office, as well as his support for diversionary programs such as Recovery (Drug) Court and the Behavioral Health Docket. Chesapeake has the 2nd largest diversionary programs in the Commonwealth and these programs were never championed under his Republican predecessor. Rehabilitating people, particularly those nonviolent offenders who committed crimes while experiencing mental health crises or exhibiting addiction issues, is near and dear to his heart. Supporting the elderly population and keeping our City safe are also the highest priorities for his office.

The last "local" office on the ballot in 2025 is the seat on the School Board that unexpectedly came open when Republican Brittany Walker resigned. Her term expires at the end of 2026. The successful candidate in the 2025 election will serve the unexpired portion of Walker's term. Three democrats have announced their candidacy: [Jeremy Rodden](#), Jainet Crawford and Amanda Quillen. The Chesapeake Democratic Committee at its May 8, 2025 meeting, endorsed Dr. Amanda Quillen as its candidate to fill the vacant seat on the School.

Your Vote Matters

Chesapeake Council of Civic Organizations (CCCO)

The Chesapeake Council of Civic Organization was officially established May 7, 2025, at Southside Community Center. The creation of the organization was inspired by the results of the 2024 election, joint meeting of civic leagues, church leaders and members of the New Chesapeake Men for Progress.

Members of the New Chesapeake Men for Progress has been meeting with civic leagues leaders and members since January to share voting results, obtain neighborhood problem and concerns, and to educate citizens on the power of their votes as an agents of change.

The mission of the Chesapeake Council of Civic League Organization ***“is to bring civic leagues together in unity, becoming one collective voice of many ideas that advocate for the well-being of all communities in Chesapeake. Through collaboration, shared purpose, and community engagement, we strive to uplift every neighborhood and build a stronger unified city.”***

Currently, twelve civic league, one community organization and two church leaders have become members of the CCCO. The group is currently focusing on the 2025, and 2026 elections, lobbying to bring about solutions to neighborhood problems, and planning an all-city Community Day, August 23, 2025, at the Dr. Clarence Cuffee Community Center.

We invite civic leagues, community organizations, and church leaders to join us in our efforts to make Chesapeake truly a great place to live, learn, work, farm, and Play for all citizens.

What the DATA Showed

Members of the New Chesapeake Men for Progress conducted surveys with 19 civic leagues and other issues. Tabulating the data collected revealed the following the most important issues to be addressed by the city.

1. Speeding traffic on neighborhood streets.
2. Need for a performing arts/convocation center
3. Eliminating ditches, paving streets, especially and construct sidewalks, especially in minority neighborhoods.
4. Initiate a flood mitigating program, especially in south Norfolk, Pughsville, Deep Creep, and Fernwood Farm, etc.

Other major concerns of needs identified included a community center for Crestwood, replacing old schools such as G. W. Carver Intermediate school which was built in 1952, and Crestwood elementary school which was built in 1956. The needs need to become more than a city council unfunded priority, but a reality to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Mark Your Calendars

Community Day at the Dr. Clarence Cuffee Community Center, August 23, 2025



Published by:

New Chesapeake Men for Progress, Inc.
Clifton Randolph, president
George F. Reed, Ph.D. editor

The 2025 Election Has Arrived!

All 50 states – including Virginia – hold elections in the even-numbered years. Additionally, four states hold elections in the odd-numbered years. Virginia is one of states in this latter, relatively exclusive, group. The other three states are Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey. With elections scheduled in both odd-and-even-numbered-years, Virginia joins that small group of states that has an election every year, whereas 46 states only have elections every-other-year, in the even-numbered years.

One of the key dates for Virginia’s 2025 election arrived this past Friday, May 2 (early voting begins for the primary and runs for 45 days, culminating in primary election day, which arrives on June 17). As will be explained below, two or three offices, are all the offices that will appear on your Democratic Party primary ballot. If you reside outside of House District 89 you will see two offices on your Democratic Party primary ballot. If you reside inside the 89th you will see three.

Other important dates are September 19 (early voting begins for the election and runs for 45 days), and November 4 (Election Day).

Virginia elections run in a four-year lifecycle, consisting of “The Presidential”, “The Off Year”, “The Midterms” and “The Off Year”. Federal offices show up in the even-numbered years, in addition to state and local offices. The odd-numbered years are limited to state and local offices.

Putting all of this together, the general election ballot for the 2025 “Off Year” election in Chesapeake, Virginia will ask voters to decide who will represent them as their:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Delegates representing House Districts 89, 90, 91 & 92
- Chesapeake Treasurer
- Chesapeake Commissioner of the Revenue
- Chesapeake Sheriff
- Chesapeake Commonwealth Attorney
- One seat on Chesapeake School Board

Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and House District 89 have multiple democrats seeking the nomination. All of these will appear on the democrat primary ballot if you reside in House District 89, a district that serves part of Chesapeake and part of Suffolk. If you reside beyond House District 89 the only offices that will appear on your democratic primary ballot are Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Let us now turn our attention to state offices on the 2025 ballot and, later, to the local offices that will be on the ballot in the Virginia “Off Year” election.

Virginia law forbids the sitting Governor (Governor Youngkin) to run for a second, consecutive, term (although it does allow a former Governor to run again after sitting out a term, as former Governor McAuliffe unsuccessfully attempted to do in 2021, after having left office in 2017). The democratic nominee is former Congresswoman [Abigail Spanberger](#). Winsome Earle-Sears, the current Lieutenant Governor, is the republican nominee for Governor. Neither of the gubernatorial candidates has a primary challenger. For this reason, the governor’s office will not appear on the primary ballot.

Up Coming Events to Support

SATURDAY
MAY
31

FEEL FREE TO DREAM
Youth Conference

8:30am-2:00pm
Boys & Girls- ages 12-19

General Assembly; Workshops; Vendors; Lunch included.
Door Prizes / Free attendance but registration is required/conference limited to first 150 students and 75 parents. To register go to www.groundzerodevelopment.info / 757.606.2280

Workshop Topics:
Human Trafficking
Health & Wellness
Going to College
Mental Health
Career of the
Armed Services

GROUND ZERO DEVELOPMENT

Guest Speaker: Councilman Les Smith
New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
1765 S. Military Hwy., Chesapeake VA 23320

Ground Zero Development Sponsors

GROUND ZERO DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2023

MAKING OUR FUTURE Bright

May 27, 2023, 8:30am-2:00pm
Youth Talent Show

Welcome Boys and Girls
Talent Show; Workshops; Vendors; Lunch Included

Free Attendance but Registration Required/conference limited to first 150 students and 75 parents

To register go to www.groundzerodevelopment.info/757-606-2280

New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church 1765 S. Military Hwy., Chesapeake VA 23320

SAVE THE DATE

The Chesapeake Council of Civic Leagues will be hosting a Community-Wide Event August 23, 2025, at the Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee Community Center, 2019 Windy Road, Chesapeake. The event will include free food; back to school supplies; bounce house; game bus; Connect 4; house shoes, line dancing, corn hole toss; and much more.

So come out and have some fun, and help us to uplift our neighborhoods, and build a stronger and more connected city.



Join us for **MATT HAMEL'S CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**

With special guest
**Virginia Speaker of the House
Don Scott**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Deep Creek Ruritan Club Log Cabin
200 Luray Street - Chesapeake, VA 23323

And enjoy a meal provided by Southside BBQ!

This is not a fundraiser but we'd welcome your support!
To contribute, visit us at matt-hamel.com or click the QR code!



Virginia law requires us to collect the contributor's name, mailing address, occupation, employer and city and state of employment. A campaign committee can accept unlimited contributions from any individual, corporation, union, association, or partnership. Contributions to political campaigns are not tax deductible.

Paid for and authorized by Matt Hamel for Commonwealth's Attorney