

S&P Raises Credit Rating to AAA: Standard & Poor’s Global Ratings (“S&P”) raised Norfolk’s credit rating to AAA on its long-term General Obligation Bonds. This upgrade makes Norfolk one of just 16 municipalities in Virginia with this highest credit rating from S&P. S&P highlighted that the higher rating reflects Norfolk’s “strong economy,” its “very strong management, with strong financial policies and practices” and “very strong budgetary flexibility, strong budgetary performance, as well as very strong liquidity.” S&P noted that the City’s proactive management of its environmental, social, and governance risks are integrated in Norfolk practices and long-term planning.

Community Input Drives Multi-Modal Plan: Multimodal Norfolk is about getting people connected in ways that are safer, more comfortable and more efficient. The plan will provide the framework for both large and small transportation decisions and will help define the direction that Norfolk’s transportation system will take over the coming years. Public meetings are scheduled later this month. Details at www.norfolk.gov/multimodalnorfolk



Removing Hiring Barriers: The Department of Human Resources, in partnership with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Core Team completed a key initiative to remove driver’s license requirements for positions that did not include driving as a primary responsibility. This hiring barrier has disproportionately impacted people with disabilities, minorities and those who have been involved with the criminal justice system as they may be less likely to hold a driver’s license for a variety of reasons. Appropriate changes were made to approximately 74 percent of City of Norfolk job descriptions to better align with our efforts to offer equal employment opportunities for all people. With increased access to public transportation, ride-sharing services, and alternative options to get to work and meetings, not having a driver’s license is no longer a barrier to employment with the City of Norfolk. For positions that may require a driver’s license depending on the assignment, it is left up to the department to determine what constitutes as a business need.

Norfolk Hosts USA Boxing Eastern Qualifier: Team Norfolk Boxing is pleased to announce that it will host USA Boxing 2020 Eastern Qualifier and Regional Open Championships. This year’s tournament will take place Sept 27 – Oct 3 at the Norfolk Scope and will host some of the most talented youth and elite boxers from all over the country. This tournament serves as a qualifying event for elite boxers for the 2020 USA Boxing Elite and Youth National Championships. Norfolk has a rich boxing history which boasts Pernell “Sweet Pea” Whitaker and upcoming Olympian Keyshawn Davis.



Project Homeless Connect Success: City staff, dozens of organizations and hundreds of volunteers came together to provide services to 200 homeless individuals during the annual Project Homeless Connect at Scope. Norfolk Community Services Board’s Housing and Homeless Services team planned the event.

Norfolk's Municipal Cemeteries: The Norfolk Bureau of Cemeteries and the Norfolk Society for Cemetery Conservation (NSCC) are proud partners in the active conservation of Norfolk's municipal cemeteries. Cemetery conservation efforts include headstone and artifact repair, beautification and landscaping maintenance. These efforts create a unique opportunity to preserve Norfolk's history and family legacies. In 2019, the Bureau of Cemeteries hosted 96 educational sessions (NSCC volunteer workdays, community events and NSCC fundraising events) with more than 1700 participants and 950 volunteer hours. Other groups in Virginia like the Friends of East End Cemetery and volunteers from the University of Richmond have joined together to restore and clean up the East End Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. Combined efforts throughout our region help spread the importance of a valuable part of Virginia's cultural heritage.



Video highlights of the latest happenings in Norfolk!

[Building the Future – 5 New Schools!](#)

Norfolk Happening Now! Upcoming Events for Your Awareness

February 15 (9a – 12p) Prevention Services: Hidden in Plain Sight @Saint Patrick Catholic School

Join us for a conversation about substance use in our community. We'll show you what's happening through an interactive program where signs of substance use are often "hidden in plain sight." This will be a safe place to talk with parents and community experts about drug trends, how to talk to youth about alcohol and drugs, and what to do if you suspect a problem.

February 19 (11a-2p) Park Place Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary @Park Place Branch Library

Celebrate 50 years at the Park Place branch! Free and open to the public.

February 20 (5:45p-7:30p) NBN Academy: Marketing your Neighborhood @Coaster Coffee Community Room

This free course will discuss how to establish a positive identity for your neighborhood and provide tools for attracting good neighbors.

February 23 (2p-4p) Sands of Iwo Jima @MacArthur Memorial

To mark the 75th anniversary of the iconic flag raising during the Battle of Iwo Jima, the MacArthur Memorial will screen Sands of Iwo Jima (109 minutes). Starring John Wayne, the Sands of Iwo Jima is the story of a group of Marines who fought in one of the most brutal battles of the war in the Pacific. Sands of Iwo Jima will be the first film in the 5th Annual Military History Film Festival. The 2020 film festival will focus on WWII 75th anniversaries and Hollywood vs History.

February 25 (10:30a-12:30p) Rent Ready Workshop Landlord Rights @Dept. of Neighborhood Development

The RentingSmart Academy's Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act: Your Rights as a Landlord workshop for landlords and property managers will focus on the responsibilities landlords have regarding the care and maintenance of their property, as well as the rights landlords have available to enforce against their tenants. Our presenter for this workshop is Jesse Zajac of Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia (LASEVA). Jesse is the Advocates for Credit, Employment and Shelter (ACES) Project Attorney for the area. *RentingSmart Academy Core Course*

February 25 (4:30 informal meeting; 7:00 formal meeting) Norfolk City Council meeting @ City Hall

February 26 (11a-1p) Multimodal Norfolk Public Meeting @Jordan-Newby Branch Library

The purpose of Multimodal Norfolk is to better connect the ways we travel - by foot, bus, bike, scooter and car - to make our city safer and more prosperous in the future. To make this happen, we need to hear from YOU!

February 26 (5:30p-7:30p) Multimodal Norfolk Public Meeting @Southside Aquatic Center

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February 27 (5:30p – 7:30p) Multimodal Norfolk Public Meeting @Pretlow Anchor Branch Library

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**SIXTY-DAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS AND MEETING TOPICS**

UPCOMING ITEMS FROM JANUARY 23 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (Applicant)** text amendment to the *Norfolk Zoning Ordinance*
- **AUTO EXPO OF VIRGINIA, INC (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow automobile sales at 5045 E. Princess Anne Rd
- **HENDRICK AUTOMOTIVE GROUP (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing automobile sales and service establishment to expand to the adjacent properties at 6200, 6210, 6222, 6252, and 6266 East Virginia Beach Blvd
- **DAVID A CRUZ VEGA (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing single-family home to operate as a Short-Term Rental Unit at 1519 Longwood Dr
- **BOHO BUNGALOW (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing single-family home to operate as a Short-Term Rental Unit at 1805 Pope Ave
- **ROBERT HUNTOON (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the construction of an accessory dwelling unit at 531 New Jersey Ave
- **CURTIS BAY MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES VIRGINIA, LLC (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the operation of a medical waste transfer facility at 3634 Village Ave
- **GUADS MEXICAN RESTAURANT (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing restaurant to expand and operate until 2:00 a.m. at 7515 Granby St
- **VIRGINIA CHEESE COMPANY (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the restaurant to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption at 501 Botetourt St
- **NORFOLK REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY (Applicant)** to vacate the right-of-way of a 16' wide lane/alley east of the Colley Ave between Front St and Woodis Ave

February 25, 2020

WORKSESSION BRIEFINGS:

- **General Assembly Update**
- **Run/Walk Process**
- **Citywide Environmental Sustainability**

UPCOMING ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY 27 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- **ENTERPRISE RENT A CAR (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow an existing automobile rental facility to expand the building square footage at 7436 North Military Hwy
- **RANIA WEILENMAN (Applicant)** to vacate the right-of-way of an unnamed 15' lane lying west of Middle Ave, north of Summit Ave, east of West Ave and south of Lamont St
- **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (Applicant)** text amendment to the *Norfolk Zoning Ordinance*
- **WILLOUGHBY BEACH, LLC (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow each unit of the existing triplex to operate as Short-Term Rental Units at 1500 W. Ocean View Ave

- **KA'LOR LOUNGE (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow for a nightclub with on-premises alcohol sales and live entertainment with a disc jockey and dance floor until 2:00 am at 727 Granby St
- **THE BLIND TIGER (Applicant)** conditional use permits to allow the restaurant to operate with live entertainment until 2:00am at 259 Granby St

March 3, 2020

WORKSESSION BRIEFINGS:

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March 8 – 11, 2020

National League of Cities (no Council meeting)

March 24, 2020

WORKSESSION BRIEFINGS:

- **Annual Audit Presentation**

UPCOMING ITEMS FROM March 26 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (Applicant)** General Plan Amendment to adopt the Multi-Family Design Principles
- **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (Applicant)** text amendment to the Norfolk Zoning Ordinance to more clearly address parking and vehicle storage paving requirements
- **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (Applicant)** text amendment to the Norfolk Zoning Ordinance to modify minimum parking requirements for commercial recreation centers
- **SIGNATURE HOME BUILDERS INC. (Applicant)** change of zoning to amend the conditional rezoning on the properties at 160 and 164 Honaker Avenue
- **COSTCO WHOLESALE (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow an expansion of the existing establishment at 850 Glenrock Rd
- **KARINA MICHELE PERMANENT COSMETICS (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow for the operation of a new tattoo parlor at 738 W 22nd St
- **N'AWWW AFFAIRS (Applicant)** conditional use permits to allow for the operation of a Banquet Hall with Live Entertainment, including a Disc jockey, and alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption at 880 N. Military Hwy
- **SANCTUARY (Applicant)** conditional use permits to allow the restaurant to operate with live entertainment until 2:00am at 2330 Bowdens Ferry Road, Bldg. 100
- **THE SLOWDIVE GALLERY (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the restaurant to operate with live entertainment until 2:00 am at 117 E. Princess Anne Rd
- **GRANDIFLORA (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the restaurant to sale alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption at 1231 Boissevain Ave

UPCOMING ITEMS FROM MAY 28 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:

- **HADI MAKHOUL (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the operation of a Commercial Recreation Center at 6586 Tidewater Dr, Suite I & J
- **COLLEY SHOP (Applicant)** conditional use permits to allow the operation of a Convenience store with amusement or gaming devices and sale of tobacco product at 4800 Colley Ave, Unit A & B