

Cottage Line Civic League Meeting

June 2, 2026

Outline

Meeting Introduction and Pledge

- Rick announces this is the last meeting before the summer break, emphasizing the board's continued activity and responsiveness.
- Officer Sarmiento is introduced for the crime report, and Sheriff Baron is mentioned as the featured speaker.
- Rick leads the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection for community members, first responders, and those overseas.
- Rick introduces the board members: Joan (VP), Lynn (secretary), Susan (treasurer), Kate Stevens (membership), Martina (short-term rental advisor), Tim Dolan (snacks coordinator), Susie Graham (unsung hero coordinator), and Marida Hines (website guru).

Crime Report by Officer Sarmiento

- Officer Sarmiento reports on crime statistics, noting a seven on the crime scale, which is considered good compared to other areas in Norfolk.
- Two violent crimes are mentioned: an aggravated assault at the 1800 block of East Ocean View Avenue and a sexual assault at the 1100 block of East Ocean View Avenue.
- Property crimes, including car breaks, are highlighted, with specific incidents at the 600 block of East Ocean View Avenue and the 1600 block of the Society Avenue.
- Officer Sarmiento emphasizes the importance of calling 911 or his personal cell phone number for any suspicious activities.

Community Concerns and Questions

- Attendee asks about gangs of young kids riding dirt bikes, and Officer Sarmiento advises calling 911 or providing information about the individuals.
- Attendee inquires about a shooting at Southern Shopping Center, and Officer Sarmiento confirms it was not part of the city and involved no victims.
- Attendee shares a positive experience with Officer Sarmiento's prompt response to a call.
- Attendee expresses concerns about children crossing the street at the 1200 block of East Ocean View Avenue due to speeding cars.

Traffic and Safety Issues

- Speaker Attendee discusses personal efforts to assist children crossing the street and suggests inviting John Stevenson, Traffic Director, to address these issues.
- Rick mentions increased random radar control and inviting John Stevenson to the next Ocean View Alliance meeting on June 8.
- Attendee shares an incident involving a vehicle rear-ending a truck, highlighting the issue of speeding.
- Attendee asks about sending video evidence of dirt bike groups, and Officer Sarmiento advises sending it to him for investigation.

Sheriff's Office Update and Community Outreach

- Sheriff Joe Barron introduces himself, mentioning his 41 years in law enforcement and the current state of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office.
- Sheriff Barron discusses the importance of employee morale and the low recidivism rate in the city.

- He highlights the various programs offered in the jail, including job skills, education, mental health, and substance abuse treatment.
- Sheriff Barron emphasizes the importance of community outreach programs like the senior fest and the role of Mike O'Toole in supporting these efforts.

New Business and ABC License Application

- Anderson Castro introduces himself and his new restaurant, Sabor Cariboro, seeking an ABC license for 943 East Ocean View Avenue.
- He explains the restaurant's concept, hours of operation, and safety measures, including 24/7 video surveillance and security personnel.
- The board discusses concerns about parking, noise, and late-night operations, ultimately deciding to remain neutral until more information is available.
- Attendee mentions the need for additional permits and inspections, and the board agrees to provide a recommendation to the planning commission.

Community Concerns and Final Remarks

- Sheriff Baron addresses questions about the role of the police department and the sheriff's office, clarifying their responsibilities.
- He discusses the issue of scams and encourages community members to help their neighbors by reporting suspicious activities.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder of upcoming events, including the Sail 250 event and the need for volunteers for beach cleanup and other activities.
- Speaker 3 thanks everyone for their participation and adjourns the meeting.

Jury Duty Scam Warning

- Sheriff Baron shares a common scam where individuals are falsely accused of missing jury duty and threatened with arrest.
- The scammers often claim to be from the sheriff's office and demand payment over the phone, using methods like Green Dot cards or Bitcoin.
- Sheriff Baron emphasizes that government agencies do not operate this way and that such calls should be considered red flags.
- The scammers keep victims on the phone to prevent them from verifying the information and often succeed in extracting money.

Personal Experience and Red Flags

- Sheriff Baron recounts a story where a friend's daughter was targeted by the scam, highlighting the convincing nature of the scammers.
- The friend, despite being a former police captain, was almost deceived until Speaker 13 intervened and identified the scam.
- Sheriff Baron stresses the importance of recognizing red flags, such as government agencies demanding payment over the phone.
- The scam is prevalent across the country, targeting individuals of all backgrounds.

Education and Resources

- Sheriff Baron advises the public to educate themselves on various scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).
- The FTC's website provides information on different types of scams and how to identify them.
- Sheriff Baron mentions the importance of being aware of these scams to protect oneself and others.
- The conversation concludes with a reminder that any government agency demanding payment over the phone is a red flag.

Action Items

- Send the Sail 250 event presentation slides to the website administrator so the full presentation can be uploaded to the civic league website.
- Post the Sail 250 event details on the Cottage Land Civic League Facebook page.
- Notify civic league members when the 2026 resident survey is available.
- Work with the Ocean View Alliance and the other Ocean View civic league to decide whether beach cleanup events will be quarterly big events or monthly civic league–led cleanups.
- Inform the civic league community when the new East Beach Shops boutique (Splash) formally opens, including any contact details.
- Prepare and send a formal recommendation letter to the Planning Commission stating the civic league’s neutral stance on the proposed Latin restaurant’s ABC license and conditional use permit, based on the motion passed at this meeting.
- Complete the remaining permitting steps for the new restaurant at 943 East Ocean View Avenue, including ABC inspection, Norfolk Health Department inspection, conditional use permit, and city council review, and then report back to the civic league with updated information.
- Inform the civic league community when the new East Beach Shops boutique (Splash) formally opens, including any contact details.
- Send raffle tickets for the door decoration and beach bag raffles to anyone who emails ahead of time, ensuring their tickets are included in the raffles.
- Coordinate and host a beach cleanup event at the Old Mariner location near the Chesapeake Street public access, including organizing logistics and exploring sponsorship options.
- Arrange a meeting with John and the Department of Transportation, together with the Civic League Vice Presidents, to get clear answers about bike lanes and crosswalks on Ocean View Avenue