

Town Point Park to be Used as Actual Park: Field Days to be Held in August

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Over the past few years it has been heartening to watch as a subtle but substantial shift has occurred in downtown Norfolk: what had been a very car and tourist-centric mentality has given some ground to a more pedestrian and local-centric paradigm.

This week Festevents and the Downtown Norfolk Council announced a new program that is another step in this right direction. Field Days will occur every Tuesday and Wednesday beginning July 28 through September 2, from 11am to 8pm at TowneBank Fountain Park. There will be volleyball or badminton (alternating weeks), bocce, corn hole, and kan jam. I would encourage you to expand that list on your own. Do you love pick-up soccer, whiffleball, or kickball? Start up your own Facebook event for one of these evenings, invite your friends, and make some new friends too.



"We have discovered that the TowneBank Fountain Park has become a very popular location for families and young children," said longtime fearless leader of Festevents, Karen Scherberger. "We've been working on a concept to create a similar outdoor experience for a more adult crowd. The new restaurant at Nauticus gave us the opportunity to create a 'place' and sense of synergy at that end of Town Point Park combined with the mermaid fountain and the music that is already in place there."

These are the kinds of events that help residents fall in love with a city forever. So much of Norfolk's resources are spent trying to attract outsiders--conference centers, cruise terminals, etc.--while the better strategy would be to improve quality of life for existing citizens, and watch the city grow organically from there. Kudos to groups like Re:Vision Norfolk and the Downtown Norfolk Civic League, who have been pushing for this kind of programming.

Scherberger has been inspired by parks in other great world municipalities, and has adapted based on what she has learned.

"Based on the popularity of the seating areas that we created several years ago at TowneBank Fountain Park (based on the Bryant Park model [in New York, below]), last year Festevents decided to develop a new seating area along the waterfront similar to what you find in Hyde Park in London, a dedicated area full of deck chairs that people could move around to enjoy relaxing in the park," she said.



It's also nice to see downtown stakeholder organizations working together toward the common good. In my short time here I've seen petty turf wars hinder collaboration in Norfolk on a regular basis. Hopefully those days are starting to be over.

"This initiative supports one of our strategic planning goals of activating the waterfront for employees and residents in downtown," said the Mary Miller, president and CEO of the Downtown Norfolk Council. "DNC was pleased to partner with Festevents and Nauticus on this effort."

Tell your friends and get out and play. This is our city. Let's have joy in it.

For more info, [click here](#).

About Jesse Scaccia

Editor-in-Chief, AltDaily

Jesse is the editor in chief of AltDaily. He has many biases and local involvements. They include being the chair of the public art committee and board member for the Norfolk Arts District; being a Public Art Commissioner for the City of Norfolk; former employee of TFC Recycling; graduate of ODU, where he taught writing; advocate for gay rights, animals rights, women's rights; member of Re:Vision Norfolk and Bike Norfolk; he believes that the mall is a sin and that without locally-owned businesses a city isn't worth a damn. He ran for City Council, lost, and then was nominated for School Board but that didn't happen either due, in part, to an absurd poem scandal (really!). He is a vegetarian and a yogi. He believes that marijuana should be legalized and would prefer that all hand guns be replaced with squirt guns but tyranny is also the worst, so he's not picking that battle. He's a former public school teacher in NYC and TV producer for BET. Email him: [jesse at altdaily.com](mailto:jesse@altdaily.com).

