



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

Serving: Academy Terrace, Colony Point, Hariton Gardens, Merridale, Pinehurst, Restmere, Rose Gardens, Sussex of Norfolk, Virginia Gardens, Wards Corner and Wexford Terrace

October 2013 Web site www.wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

MONDAY
October 21, 2013
6:45 PM

Program
Candidate Forum

Treasurer:
Jim McDonnell and Anthony Burfoot

Commissioner of the Revenue:
Evans Poston and Sherry Battle-Edmonds

Sheriff:
Robert McCabe, Sean Jones and Neil Bradley

Commonwealth Attorney:
Greg Underwood

All have been invited

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

This November, we will be electing several new leaders for our State and City. The offices of Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General will be decided on November 5th. In addition we will be electing 4 new constitutional officers for the city of Norfolk. This year, the offices of Commonwealth Attorney, Commissioner of the Revenue, City Treasurer and Sheriff will be decided. I thought I would take a few lines and refresh your memory about the duties of these offices. Most of this information can be found in the Virginia State Constitution, Article VII, Local Government or the Norfolk website.

Article VII – Local Government Article VII of the Constitution sets up the basic framework for the structure and function of [local government in Virginia](#).

Local government may be established at the [town](#) (population over 1000), [city](#) (population over 5000), [county](#) or [regional government](#) level. Article VII gives the General Assembly the power to create general laws for the organization and governing of these political subdivisions, except that regional governments cannot be created without the consent of the majority of the voters in the region.

Section 4 establishes the constitutional offices of [Treasurer](#), [Sheriff](#), [Commonwealth's Attorney](#), [Clerk of court](#) and [Commissioner of the Revenue](#) to be elected within each city and county in Virginia

Sheriff

An individual sheriff's office may perform some or all of four types of duties, depending on the existence of local police departments and regional jails:

Law enforcement,
Jail operation,
Courtroom security, and
Service of process.

The mission of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office is to serve the citizens of Norfolk by providing for the incarceration of adult and juvenile offenders in methods that protect public safety; To maintain institutional safety in a cost effective manner that meets statutory and constitutional standards; To provide services and programs for inmates seeking assistance with the intent to reduce recidivism; To provide a safe and secure environment for the Circuit Court and General District Courts of the City of Norfolk, ensuring that order and decorum is maintained during all court proceedings; and to timely provide for the service of all process and criminal warrants received by the Norfolk Sheriff's Office.

Commonwealth's Attorney

Prosecute violations of state law and local ordinances in district and circuit courts, and
Provide legal advice to local government.

Our Mission

The Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of all felony charges and some misdemeanor charges resulting from violations of the Criminal Code of Virginia which occur in the City of Norfolk. The Office also handles certain civil matters which include forfeiture actions against property used in connection with crimes and violations of election laws.

The work of the Office is led by the Commonwealth's Attorney; a constitutional officer elected by the citizens of Norfolk, and is supported by prosecutors, paralegals, legal secretaries, victim / witness advocates, and other professionals. Each person in the office works hard daily to ensure the efficient, effective, and ethical prosecution of defendants and comprehensive representation of crime victims and witnesses in the appropriate courts in the city: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, General District Court, and Circuit Court.

Treasurer

About the Office

The Office of the Treasurer was established in 1869 by the Constitution of Virginia. The Treasurer is an elected official and serves a term of four years. Responsibilities and duties encompass all

activities related to the receipt and collection of revenue, the safekeeping and investment of revenue, and an accurate accounting for and the disbursement of revenue.

Responsibilities & Goals

The legal authority for the Treasurer's duties and responsibilities is governed by the Constitution of Virginia, the Code of Virginia, Local Ordinances and charter provisions, case law, court decisions and opinions of the Attorney General.

It is our goal to provide an efficient and professional approach in serving the citizens of Norfolk, while maintaining an attitude of respect and understanding. You will receive prompt and courteous information and assistance. We are committed to strive for excellence.

Commissioner of the Revenue

Our Mission

We are the chief tax assessor, both individual and commercial, for the City of Norfolk. We provide superior service and quality in the:

- Administration of all fiduciary taxes
- Assessment of individual and business personal property
- Assistance and processing of Virginia State Income Taxes
- Evaluation of customer compliance
- Investigation of inquiries and delinquent accounts
- Issuance and renewal of business licenses

We provide these services for the citizens of Norfolk and to aid in the continued growth of our community.

This information is provided to you because on October 21st at our next civic league meeting we hope to have all of the candidates running for these offices at a Constitutional Officer Candidate forum. At that time, following introductions by the candidates, you will have an opportunity to ask them questions about the office they seek and why they think they are the best person for that office. I hope you can join us for that meeting.

In addition and time permitting we will also vote on a change to our by-laws to allow the addition of two new members to our Executive Committee. We have previously announced this change in our newsletter and our meetings and now it is time to vote on that change.

Because of these important elections and our responsibility as a US citizen to vote in every election, I am including a short piece the reasons we should vote. I hope you enjoy it.

The following is from the website of Essortment.com and I thought I would share it with you.

"Voting in a local, state, or national election is an exciting opportunity provided by democratic nations to their citizens.

There are many good reasons to vote, including the following:

1. Casting a vote allows an individual to express a choice among candidates who wish to become government leaders. It's up to each voter to locate available information about each candidate and to make an informed decision about how to vote. Rather than allowing potential leaders to hide weaknesses and wrong-doing from public awareness, a democratic [voting process](#) urges citizens to get involved and to share viewpoints about who should lead. Failing to register a vote is tantamount to saying you don't care. Few people truly remain oblivious to government leadership. Most have opinions about the way things should go, and they should use the voting process to express their preferences.

2. Voting provides a medium for citizens to support the democratic structure. If a majority of citizens chose not to vote, democracy might become a thing of the past, replaced by another form of government that might prove more elitist in nature. Registering to vote means that you believe in the democratic process and will participate in it to represent your right to freedom of speech.

3. Supporting the electoral process helps to reinforce your regional government. Showing that you care with your vote tells candidates that they must be accountable to the public. It also suggests that those who introduce issues for a vote must provide adequate information to answer [citizens' questions](#) and address their concerns rather than attempt to foist a half-baked idea onto the general public.

4. Showing up at the poll on voting day sets a good example to others. Remember, your children observe all that you do and will learn from your example, right or wrong as it may be. Civic awareness is an important part of their training and one of the early steps on the road to maturity. Discuss the candidates with your family and make a point of mentioning your vote, or wearing the pin distributed at many polls that reads "I voted today." Voting also sets a positive example to neighbors, friends, and family who may be uninterested in or unfamiliar with the electoral system.

5. Finally, taking time to vote reflects pride in your nation and its government. The country becomes a beacon of liberty for the rest of the world who will be watching. Let everyone know that you care enough about your homeland and its leaders to have a say in the election's outcome. Never surrender your right to speak your mind via the vote on Election Day. If you are not currently registered to vote, call or stop in at the electoral office in Norfolk City Hall to get signed up. It only takes a few minutes, and even that step is likely to get noticed by those who are watching."

Finally I hope to see you at the next civic league meeting on October 21st. Please enjoy this edition of the Wards Corner Civic League newsletter. Our newsletter editor puts a lot of effort in producing our great newsletters.

Sincerely,
Jim English

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2nd VP/Newslet- ter distribution	Sue Classick	489-2315
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[**bookworms@whro.net**](mailto:bookworms@whro.net)

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

September 16, 2013

WCCL met at 6:45PM in NFWC. President Jim English led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting in Washington Navy Yard.

Officer Odell Davis introduced Community Resource Officer Jerry Warner. He reported June, July, and August statistics of burglaries, vandalisms, larcenies, robberies, a rape and vehicle theft. Burglaries occurred on Victory, Birmingham, North Shore, West Little Creek, Newport, Timothy, Ruthven and Meads. Reports of teens loitering at the North Shore playground, and if truancy is suspected, call the high school. Parking on the lawns on W. Little Creek is ongoing, though it is a code violation. Police will write tickets if notified. The grassless areas diminish our area and home values. Vice Squad is responsible for prostitute activity. Panhandling is a problem near the apartment complexes. There is a city wide curfew for teens for rowdiness at Ruthven and Sterling. Contact odell.davis@norfolk.gov.

Our guest speaker, Karen Rudd, Norfolk Public Arts Commission, gave a presentation regarding a public art project for Wards Corner. The funding is from 1% of building projects over \$1 million set aside for municipal art. Examples of the impact are: Northside Skate Park, TIDE stations, MacArthur Center, Towne Point Park, Norview Community Center, parking garages and the Zoo. Request for Proposal for the \$150,000 contract will be published in September. The artist will be selected in November and complete the project by December 2014. The site for the selection has yet to be determined.

VP Martin Thomas, Jr reported items addressed at the WC Taskforce (all invited on second Thursday at 830AM in NFWC). Sewer extension will begin this winter on North Shore from playground at Restmere to Colony Point Rd. Talbot Hall is for sale as is the BP gas station at the intersection of Granby and Little Creek. Denby Park apartments purchased by the city will be demolished after asbestos removal. The gym/fitness business and Sal's Pizza have vacated the area. K and K Square at Wards Corner (named for the Perry family) will contain Harris Teeter, a Subway, Albanos, Sleepy Mattress, Starbucks, Moe's Southwest Grill, Great Clips.

New Business: ByLaw change: a motion to increase the executive board with 2 new positions (newsletter editor and a member at large) was made and seconded. Nominations will be in November with elections in December. Holiday Decorating Contest needs 3 people to volunteer as judges. Condolences to June for her husband and WCCL member Bill Schumacher, who recently passed.

Litter cleanup is scheduled at Ruthven and W Little Creek, September 21. A 5K Freedom Marathon.org race from Towne Point to Hampton, Little Creek, Granby is scheduled November 8-10 to benefit Wounded Warrior Project and homeless vets.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan S Griffey, Sec.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1871.96
+ funds received	\$15.00		
- funds disbursed		\$112.36	
Ending Balance			\$1774.60

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	831-3484
Police Red Sector	664-6914
Code Enforcement	664-6532
Environmental Health	683-2712
Sewer Backup	823-1000
Waste Management (Call here for large pickups)	441-5813
Norfolk Cares Call Center (Don't know what office to call on the problem?)	664-6510
Police Emergency	911

NEWS AND NOTES

Thanks to the Volunteers who took part in the Adopt-A-Spot clean-up on Saturday, September 28. We collected 11 bags of litter, one large board about 12 feet long, and another board about 5 feet long. Members participating were Jonathan Nye, Sue Classick, Stephanie Gallagher, Shauna Gallagher, Betty Duron, and our leader, Ray Duron.

Harvest Bazaar, Bake Sale, and Yard Sale
Friday November 1, 7AM-2 PM
Saturday November 2, 8 AM – 2 PM

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
6400 Newport Avenue

**WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS BUT AREN'T
 QUITE THERE YET**

We still have a shortage of newsletter deliverers, and that leaves 3 routes and approximately 90 homes that won't get a newsletter if we can't find THREE additional volunteers. The routes that still need coverage with the number of homes in parentheses are:

7700-7800 Sheryl Drive/5 houses on
 Birmingham (28)
 Gloucester (36)
 Elvin Road/Court/Granby (26)

It only takes about an hour a month, 10 months each year. Please consider helping. Volunteers are also needed as a substitute periodically. Sue thanks all those who continue to deliver the newsletter and the new ones who have volunteered. You make her job easier.

Please call Sue Classick to volunteer at 489-2315