

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

March 2017

[www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com)

## CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

### NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

#### Speakers

**William Old**  
**Community Resource Officer**

**Bev Sell, Founder and General Manager**  
**Five Points Farmer's Market**

**Frank Walker, President**  
**Norfolk Beekeepers**

**Jay Jones**  
**Candidate for Delegate, 89<sup>th</sup> District**

**Monday**  
**March 20, 2017**  
**6:45 – 8:30 PM**

a lot of buzz (pun intended) and excitement in the air. Please do come join us; we're all bound to learn at least a thing or two that will help make our lives a little better and hopefully our neighborhood and city better too.

Looking beyond this month, I'd really like to hear from you, the residents. Our civic league board exists not to tell residents what the city needs, but rather to advocate your needs and concerns to the city. Our board can always meet and discuss what we think are neighborhood priorities and issues, but we can be much more effective with your input. What we really want to know is, **what do you want our Wards Corner neighborhood to be?** We're here to listen first, then take action.

For example, if someone gave you \$500 to spend on a neighborhood project, what would your project be? (By the way, such grant money does exist!) Send me an email at [scott.guirlinger@gmail.com](mailto:scott.guirlinger@gmail.com), message me on NextDoor, or catch me after one of our upcoming meetings. And if I'm not available for some reason, I'm certain any of our other board members would be glad to listen. I'm sure all of you have some fantastic ideas worth sharing with our board and the rest of the neighborhood.

Scott Guirlinger  
President, Wards Corner Civic League

### Presidents Message

Dear Neighbors,

Sustainability. Go Local. Or just the color Green. These are terms we hear all around us these days. Sustainable living promises to help us save money, be healthier, cut out toxic chemicals, reconnect with our community, grow our knowledge and skills, and improve our quality of life. There are many sustainable practices taking place in Norfolk now, some for a very long time, and others just starting up.

This month we will feature two great champions of local sustainability with Bev Sell, Founder & General Manager of Five Points Farmer's Market, and Frank Walker, President of Norfolk Beekeepers. They will fill us in on all of the cool things that their associations have going on now and in the coming months. With spring officially starting on the day of our next civic league meeting (March 20th), there's

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>Police Non-Emergency</b>	<b>441-5610</b>
<b>Pace Officer</b>	<b>252-207-4361</b>
<b>Police Red Sector</b>	<b>664-6914</b>
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>664-6532</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>683-2712</b>
<b>Sewer Backup</b>	<b>823-1000</b>
<b>Waste Management (Call here for large pickups)</b>	<b>441-5813</b>
<b>Norfolk Cares Call Center (Don't know what office to call on the problem?)</b>	<b>664-6510</b>
<b>Police Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>

## **Wards Corner Civic League Minutes**

February 27, 2017

34 In attendance (more new faces joined!)

After being relocated to another room at the Fitness Center due to scheduling conflict, we began at 6:45pm. We stood and President Scott Gurlinger led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CRO Officer William Old updated us on the latest crime statistics. Although the month's numbers were seemingly lower as compared to last month, this past week showed an increase in car larcenies, there was also a rape at the back-lot of the RC's club. The club has told police they hope to put up a permanent fence to cut off the back-trail there in hopes of making it less attractive as a dangerous cut through. There is also an ongoing investigation of domestic child abuse 7700 block of Restmere. Officer Old also took commentary and questions for follow up on several burglary and larceny cases and will hopefully have details on those at the next meeting as well.

Our next guest was Anthony Castillo, Manager of the Emergency Communications Center. Located on VA beach Blvd in Norfolk, his people field all emergency AND Police Non-emergency calls (911 and 441-6510). He explained how calls are routed and sorted by their computer system and how information is passed along to Police, Fire & Rescue, and even Marine or State Police as necessary. He noted that 911 locales work together. In these days of cell phones, the only information they get from your cell phone call is your phone number and what "tower" you are near. This sometimes could be across the unseen border between cities, and in instances of Hampton and Portsmouth as they relate to Norfolk's river and bay front areas, even across water sometimes. In those cases, the first question they ask is "where is your emergency?" This is imperative because they may need to route your call to the correct city's emergency center for the fastest response. That led him to an important point. The key to 911 Operators jobs is getting information quickly, and being able to send that information to the field. Depending on the caller's level of anxiety, the conversation may be misconstrued as terse or even rude depending on the call. He clarified that they are compassionate citizens like us that took the time to train on what questions to ask to get the most important information quickly from citizens who are likely having the worst days of their lives. Sometimes in order to accomplish that, they don't always have time to appeal to sensitivity to sacrifice that efficiency. If you're on that call, help everyone by listening and giving the information required to get the fastest and best response. Norfolk's 911 center is the 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest in the state, handling over 550,000 calls in a year. Approximately half of those calls

are emergency, half are non-emergency, and a sprinkling (about 1200 per year) are hang-ups. IMPORTANT!! If you call 911, even if you get a message to hold, DO NOT HANG UP!! They are required to call back every inbound call. More importantly, if they don't reach you on the return call, police are dispatched to check on you. That little bit of patience on your part can save much needed resources.

Next to speak was SW Dawson. He was given the opportunity to speak towards his bid for Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Norfolk in the upcoming elections. He fielded questions about his expectations of the job, and some of his stances and promises if elected. Information for Mr. Dawson can be found at [www.swdawson.com](http://www.swdawson.com). The Democratic Primaries are June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the general elections will be in November. WCCL Board will continue to reach out to the other candidates in this election as well to have them come provide their positions and bids for election.

Scott took back the podium, so to speak, to let folks know that the WCCL Board is working on a Spring Social event for everyone to come out and meet the Board and other Wards Corner residents. Share some time together and get to know your neighbors. Keep an eye on the website, [www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com) and posts on Nextdoor as we put information out.

Last up was Norfolk Councilman and Neighbor, Martin Thomas with updates on two items:

- Arbor Point Apartments are being sold to an established property owner out of Charlottesville, who specializes in owning and keeping up older apartments. He already owns our good corporate neighbor, Sewell's Park apartments. The owner has stated that after closing on the properties, scheduled at the end of the month, he will begin improvements as quickly as possible.

- The Wards Corner Public Art will be repaired either by FEMA approved funds, or warranty work because the sculpture was supposed to be rated for up to 110mph winds and that level was never reached. More to follow, but it will be back.

Lastly, Martin told us about his Ride Along with the Norfolk Police. From being there for the role call to the actual ride he was very complimentary of our NPD. Martin noted that all the concerns we raise in our Civic League meeting to CRO Officer Old, are passed directly to the patrols covering Wards Corner so that they are watching out for everything that they can. Our NPD is working for us, as soon as they are in uniform and do a whole lot with sometimes very little information.

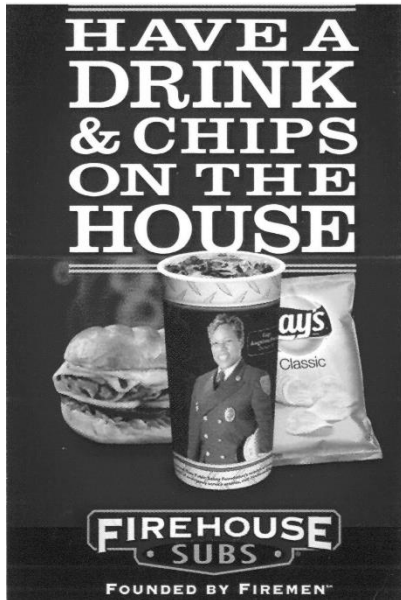
Questions were asked regarding the flooding issues on 500 block of Burleigh, and it was noted that

the meeting with actual residents promised by Mr. White was never scheduled. WCCL Board will follow up and do what we can to get that meeting in place.

Fred Baker noted that next month's speakers will be Bev with the Five Points Farmer's Market, and Frank H with the Norfolk Beekeepers, so come on out and let's get ready for upcoming great harvest by talking about local produce and honey!!

Meeting adjourned at 835pm.

Fred Baker, Secretary



#### WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	<b>Scott Guirlinger</b>	<b>489-3938</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP</b>	<b>Socko Pearson</b>	<b>663-8878</b>
<b>Membership</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP</b>	<b>Sue Classick</b>	<b>489-2315</b>
<b>Newsletter Distribution</b>		
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Fred Baker</b>	<b>739-9815</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ray Duron</b>	<b>423-4337</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Barbara Ross</b>	<b>739-3600</b>
<b>Member-At-Large</b>	<b>Chris DePalma</b>	<b>663-9965</b>

**Web Master – Martin Thomas, Jr.**  
**618-6468**

**Newsletter Editor –Barbara Ross**  
[Bookworms@WHRO.net](mailto:Bookworms@WHRO.net)

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$2,089.37</b>
<b>+ funds received</b>	<b>\$540.00</b>		
<b>- funds disbursed</b>		<b>\$132.50</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$2,496.87</b>

There are 106 members in our Civic League. Are you one of these?

#### Membership

*It's now time to pay your 2017 dues.*

Our dues amount is a bargain-\$5.00/person or \$10/household.

*Send your check with the form below to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505 or bring it to a meeting.*

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

#### NEWS AND NOTES

Our "Meet and Greet" event, tentatively scheduled for March 19 at GUADS, has been postponed.

Discussion regarding the Civic League Picnic is ongoing.

Still needed is 1 person (or even 2) to deliver the newsletter in the 100-600 blocks of the south side of W. Little Creek Road. Call Sue Classick if you're able to help, please.

And, Finally,

**Join the conversation online at**  
**NextDoor.com**