

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

April 2017

www.wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

Speakers

William Old
Community Resource Officer

Andria McClellan
City Council Representative, Superward 6

Ron Batliner
Candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney

Monday
April 17, 2017
6:45 – 8:30 PM

Presidents Message

Dear Neighbors,

I want to take a moment to proclaim the efforts of one of our residents. Last June, Brian Daniel contacted the civic league with an interest in cleaning up the wetlands that run along and under Newport Ave and behind the Fitness & Wellness Center. Unfortunately, the timing was such that we had just missed last year's Clean The Bay Day and the interest then went dormant. Or so I thought.

I contacted Brian again last month to see if he would like to take another look at this project. That's when I learned from him that he has been hard at work for many months preparing for our local wetlands to be cleaned this spring. He did all of this on his own accord, with no prompting from others in the community. I believe it is a great example of true citizenship at work. I applaud Brian for his efforts thus far and look forward to helping him achieve his goals in the coming months.

Brian has worked with Keep Norfolk Beautiful to establish the Newport Ave wetlands as a Clean The Bay Day work site for 2017. Clean The Bay Day takes place this year on the morning of Saturday, June 3rd. You can register to help by completing a volunteer form at www.cbf.org/clean-the-bay-day or by contacting Lisa Jennings with Keep Norfolk Beautiful at lisa.jennings@norfolk.gov.

In the meantime, Brian needs help preparing the site for a successful Clean The Bay Day. He's organizing weekend work dates from now through Memorial Day weekend to clear out some of the underbrush so that volunteers can access the trash to clean it up. Only hand tools are allowed in these cleanup efforts. Some hand tools are available for those who cannot bring their own. Please contact Brian at brian.daniel71@gmail.com or [\(757\) 575-3635](tel:757-575-3635) if you are able and willing to help out.

I hope this is some encouragement and maybe some inspiration for other residents who have ideas and ambition to improve our neighborhood and community. If you need assistance getting the word out to the community or finding the correct people to contact within city government to get the proper permits and approvals, the civic league can help. We will also be hosting city councilwoman Andria McClellan at our next meeting on April 17th. She will share with us a presentation on how our city government works and how to navigate through it. I've seen the presentation before and found it to be very insightful and helpful. I trust all of you will as well.

Scott Guirlinger
President, Wards Corner Civic League

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2,496.87
+ funds received	\$300.00		
- funds disbursed		\$132.50	
Ending Balance			\$2,664.37

There are 104 paid members in our Civic League. Are you one of these?

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

3-20-2017

Meeting began 6:45pm 27 in attendance

Officer Old provided the crime report. 1 shed break-in, a few vehicle larcenies, 3 stolen autos (2 were left running and then stolen, 1 recovered with an arrest). Recurring noise and nuisance complaint from a house 400 block of Maycox, Officer Old advised he would get more details on calls specific to this. Officer Old also ran a report that he handed out showing crime statistics for the Feb-Mar time line going back to 2012. This report showed that although we hear about it more (social media, news, etc.), the amount and severity of crimes has remained pretty much the same in this time period.

Our first speaker was the Founder and President of the Five Points Farmers Market, Bev Sell. The market is located on the corner of Church St and 26th in Norfolk. After talking about the history of the market starting in 1996 at the infamous 5-Points intersection of Norfolk, they expanded and moved to the new location. The farmer's market is there promoting the importance and the need of locally sustained farming. She also noted that the Market is a "small business incubator." Not only is there fresh produce, but several small businesses partner with the market to provide even more locally made specialty products. There is a spice shop and a restaurant there now. There will be a bakery, a coffee shop, and even a commercial kitchen that other small business can rent for their needs; cooking and prep classes will be held there and possibly even prepared meal offerings. She has been in contact with Norfolk's Mayor regarding the creation and upkeep of urban gardens. They also support FNV (Fruits 'n' Veggies) initiative, to get more FNV in our children's diets to help combat obesity. The Market also participates in CSA, Community Supported Agriculture, subscriptions. For a single fee, you can get 8-12 weeks of seasonal fruits, vegetables, and sometimes other items (fresh eggs!!). If you haven't been, it is a must see in our local area. Get out there and support our local agriculture! Continuing in our sustainability theme, the next speaker was Frank Walker, President of the Norfolk Beekeepers. A Master Beekeeper, Frank discussed how the hive works. The females are most commonly seen flying around your bushes and plants, collecting nectar and pollinating your fruit and veggie crops for the best yield possible. The male drones don't do much other than mate with the queen. Then there is the queen. Her job is laying eggs and perpetuating the hive. More importantly, we are right now in "swarm season" where new queens have been made, and they take half the hive, a bunch of honey, and a queen and go off in search of a new home. If you see a large hanging mass of bees **DO NOT SPRAY!!!** CALL (757)285-4509 or (757)641-5933 or (757)816-2262 and

that swarm will be collected safely, for free, and relocated somewhere that they can be productive and happy and keep making our foods possible. Frank also warned to be mindful of what you put on your plants and lawns. Pesticides won't just kill the flies, and other unwanted bugs, they also kill off significant portions of the highly beneficial bee population. Regarding wasps & carpenter bees, they eat other bothersome bugs like mosquitoes and flies, so they serve a purpose. If the option is available to leave them alone, they are out there helping you. If a wasp nest is in a doorway or near an entry, try to safely knock it down and the wasps will simply relocate and not be so uncomfortably close.

Scott mentioned that he talked to John White with Utilities and they are still planning a meeting, hopefully in April, with the residents on Burleigh affected by the flooding from last year's sewer works. We will continue to update you on that.

Councilman Martin Thomas, Jr. confirmed that the sale of Arbor Point apartments has gone through and we will hopefully get updates on code violation fixes over the next few months. We will also stay on top of this.

We were able to hear from Gerald "Jay" Jones regarding his run for Delegate of the 89th District. Voting begins with the June 13 votes. Some of the issues he mentioned were Jobs and Sea Level rise. By the time this newsletter is printed, this will have already been done, but Norfolk Collegiate students participated in Volunteer Days, and some of them walked around our neighborhood streets and collected data on problems that we need to report to the City for fixing. For instance, sidewalks cracked or lifted by tree roots on the easement, clogged drains, obvious places where trees are missing in the city easement (likely from previous storms) and issues like that. They are NOT looking for code violations. We thank them for their efforts.

Other news we discussed:

McDonalds Nursery has opened up a parking lot center for fresh flowers and veggies in the Midtown Shopping Center.

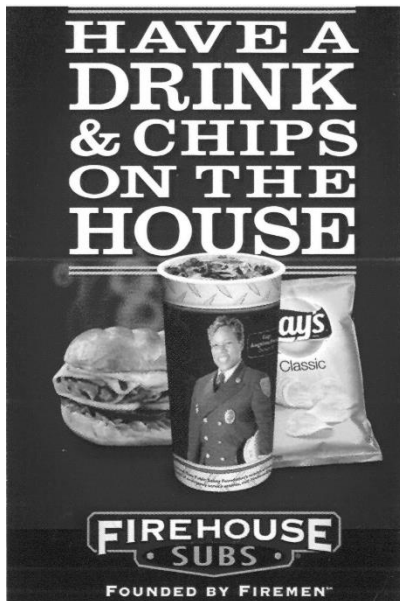
Carnival Cruise lines will not have a ship departing from Norfolk's Half Moon Terminal in 2018, but they will return with a new ship in 2019.

The Meadowbrook Firehouse is about 3 months behind (End of Little Creek Near Hampton Blvd).

Waterside District is expected to open in May.

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 pm.

Fred Baker, Secretary



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	252-207-4361
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

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 _____

Join the conversation online at
NextDoor.com



Clean The Bay Day

Saturday, June 3rd

9am - 12pm

Volunteer to clean up the Newport Avenue Wetland Vista!

www.cbf.org/events/clean-the-bay-day/city-of-norfolk-and-keep-norfolk-beautiful

NEWS AND NOTES

Our "Meet and Greet" event, tentatively scheduled for March, may be moved to July 17. More news to come in our next couple newsletters.

Decision has been made to move our Civic League Picnic to September-after Labor Day. Stay tuned for updates.

Just letting everyone know that as a Day of Service, 8th grade students from Norfolk Collegiate walked our neighborhood on April 5 from 9am-12pm. They cleaned the Wellness field and all around it as well as the North Shore playground and Granby High School. They also picked up trash along North Shore, Maycox, Hariton and Burleigh. Approximately 25 trash bags were filled. They also noted areas where trees had been planted and now need replacement. They recorded locations and your Civic League Board will forward this list to the appropriate persons with the City of Norfolk so that they can make the replacements.

Big thanks to those participating students for sharing their time and effort on our behalf.