



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

February 2018

www.wardscorner.com

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Recent spells of warm weather have me thinking the ole groundhog got his prediction horribly wrong this year. Still, after all the snow we had in January, I am ready for spring whenever it wants to arrive. Spring always brings with it an energy to revive and renew ourselves within our homes, within our neighborhoods, and within our city.

This month we welcome Lacie Wever from Keep Norfolk Beautiful as the featured speaker at our meeting. They do some excellent work empowering citizens to keep and make our city a beautiful place to live.

I will share that I personally used to gripe about trash in our streets and in our parks. "Why can't people get their trash into the bins? It's so simple!"

Come join us at our next meeting!

Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center

Monday, February 26, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Lacie Weaver

Keep America Beautiful

help get that trash back into its proper place. A little help from all of us will do wonders in no time at all.

For those of able body and

generous spirit, we have several opportunities coming up very soon to help out with specific "spring cleaning" efforts around our neighborhood.

- The Newport Avenue wetlands and surrounding area will be a designated site for the Great American Cleanup on April 21st. We are seeking to revive our Adopt-a-Spot program with quarterly cleanups - location to be determined (and discussed at our next meeting!).
- We have a small committee working on storm water drainage and other improvements at our North Shore Playground.
- Prime Plus at the Norfolk Fitness & Wellness

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 26,* 6:30 – 8:00pm, Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center: WCCL General Meeting

Monday, March 19, 6:30 – 8:00pm, Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center: WCCL General Meeting

*Meeting held on fourth Monday due to holiday

Then at some point I discarded some Styrofoam in my green city trash bin only to come home and find it scattered along the curb. Some of the Styrofoam had simply blown out while the can was being emptied into the truck.

I'm sure many of you have had similar experiences. The vast majority of our citizens are responsible and do their best not to litter. And yet the wind still finds a way to take trash from where it's supposed to be and put it where it's not. And so I will encourage you to do as I have tried to do after that time and simply

Center is starting a community garden just behind the building, with public space available for gardeners from our neighborhood.

- Granby Elementary School continues to build out their learning garden and needs volunteers and tools for construction of their shed on February 24th. Mulch will also be spread this day (weather permitting).

If any of that sounds interesting to you, please come join us! We always welcome input, support,

and help from all of our neighbors. See you around soon!

Scott Guirlinger

Wards Corner Civic League – Membership Meeting December 18, 2017

31 Attendees, Began 6:35PM

After opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, Officer Old provided his report. Although violent crime is down, larcenies have increased somewhat. There were two reported stolen autos; one was recovered, and the other is still open. There was a commercial burglary at Autozone, closed by arrest. Officer Old heard reports of street lights being out, and reviewed property lighting with the owners of Arbor Point Apartments and said he would follow up.

Our featured speaker was Bryan Tarvin with the Norfolk Wellness and Fitness Center. He opened with information about the availability of the facility, as well as briefly talked about some of the improvements to the equipment and exercise rooms to improve functional space usage. He did take questions regarding the limited hours, and unfortunate pricing structures that they presently advertise for monthly usage or to bring guests. He took notes but did not make any promises for changes indicating that those provisions are not made at his level. Demetrius Allen, the City Director for Recreation, was also at the meeting and stepped up to the podium to state that yes, they did hear our commentary and only proffered that progress to change any of these important parameters are slow going, but still could not identify who does have the power to make changes to the Center's policy. They did explain that Fitness, Aquatics, and Prime Plus, the other tenant in the building, are all managed separately so they could only speak for the Fitness Center. They have since put up an online offering to ask for ideas on improvements that the public would like to see happen, so keep an eye on Nextdoor and www.wardscorner.com for more on those when we have the information.

The next speaker was Bob Batcher, the director of Prime Plus. They provide many offerings for an active, healthy adult lifestyle for those 50 and above. They offer not only services for those that come in on their own, but adult day services for those over 50 with mobility or other issues. Prime Plus can

often arrange transportation for some if that is a problem. There is a cost, separate from any membership with the adjoining Fitness Center, for the services, but Mr. Batcher was happy to say that they work to make it feasible depending on someone's financial situation, and just as importantly, the companionship that Prime Plus can provide. Some of their offerings are morning breakfasts so seniors do not have to eat alone, tax help during that trying season, and even the opportunity to work in their community garden so that seniors can stretch their nurturing capabilities. Please take the time to go see the folks at Prime Plus.

Finally, WCCL President Scott Gurlinger gave the following updates:

- The Newsletter is being moved to an almost entirely digital format. Keep an eye on Nextdoor and www.wardscorner.com for the latest issues, as well as archives for the old newsletters.
- The WCCL Board is working towards online payment of your dues from the www.wardscorner.com website.
- We will be offering up changes to the bylaws that were discussed in this meeting. We hope to remove the paragraph containing the unclear job descriptions of Board Members. In addition, we recommended updating the Board member count to include "up to 3 Members at Large." Instead of just the 1 presently talked about.

Since the meeting, and prior to the printing of this newsletter, Art Collins held a meeting for Civic League members to voice their opinions and get details on changes being requested at the Westport Commons site.

A committee has been formed to discuss improvements we would like to see for the North Shore Playground, so keep an eye and ear out for updates to their ideas!

The next Wards Corner Civic League Meeting is February 26th, the fourth Monday of the month because the third Monday falls on President's Day, a Federal Holiday and the NWFC is closed.

Meeting adjourned 7:53pm.

Did you attend the Engage Norfolk event held on February 11 at Norview High School? This annual event is intended to get citizens involved. If you were not able to make it, here are a few of the groups represented.

Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Academy

Did you know the Norfolk Department of Neighborhood Development has a Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Academy that offers classes to residents? Norfolk has partnered with NeighborWorks, a national premiere neighborhood training organization to offer classes to neighborhoods. The classes are in-depth and some require a two-day commitment. Some upcoming classes include:

- Live Asset Mapping Demonstration
- Live neighborhood Strategic Goal Setting Demonstration
- Building Community and Promoting Equity through Revitalization
- Understanding Your Community, Analyzing Your Market
- Intergenerational Community Building
- Understanding Zoning Tools for Your Neighborhood

Classes are held at different sites around the city. For more information, search for "Neighbors Building Neighborhood Academy" at www.norfolk.gov. You can also register at <http://NBNAcademy.eventbrite.com>

Norfolk Sister City Association

The Norfolk Sister City Association is non-profit organization that focuses on Norfolk's position in the international community through its 10 sister cities. The mission of the Norfolk Sister City Association is to "advance understanding, friendship, and cooperation among the people of Norfolk, Virginia and its international sister cities." The association holds a series of events designed to teach us about the culture of our sister cities. Our ten sister cities are:

- Kitakyshu, Japan
- Wilhemshaven, Germany

- Norfolk County, England
- Toulon, France
- Kalingrad, Russia
- Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Cagayan de Oro, Philippines
- Kochi, India
- Tema, Ghana
- Nigbo, China

The Association holds numerous cultural events designed to teach about our sister cities. Membership dues are \$30 for an individual and \$50 for a family, with discounts for students. If you're interested in finding out more, check out their website: norfolksistercities.org

Norfolk Community Services Board

The Norfolk Community Services Board provides Norfolk residents with mental health, intellectual disability, and substance abuse services. Their goal is for residents to receive treatment in the community in which they live, with the support of family and friends. "Over the years, continued emphasis has been placed on community treatment, with an emphasis placed there by consumers themselves; by their loved ones who want to be nearby; by the professionals who feel that patients progress better in familiar surroundings; by advocacy groups that rally for the rights of the disabled; and by the government, which oversees the welfare of the people we serve and treat."

GAP is one of the programs offered by the Norfolk CBS. "The Governor's Access Plan (GAP) provides a limited Medicaid product to cover basic medical and targeted behavioral health care to uninsured Virginians with Serious Mental Illnesses (SMI)."

Another important program offered by the CSB is the Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk program, which is a part of Virginia's Early Intervention system. The CSB provides support and services for families and their special needs children, from birth to three.

For more information, check out the Norfolk CSB on their website: <https://www.norfolk.gov/NCBS/>

WCCL Board of Directors: Election Results

President	Scott Guirlinger	489-3938
1st VP Membership	Socko Pearson	663-8878
2nd VP Newsletter	Chris DePalma	641-2398
Secretary	Fred Baker	739-9815
Treasurer	Brian Daniel	575-3635
Newsletter Editor	Carolyn DePalma	641-2398
Member-At-Large	Liz Lockwood	685-6348
Member-At-Large	Dan Graves	617-2240

Important Numbers

Police Non-Emergency	757-823-4433
Pace Officer	252-207-4361
Police Red Sector	757-823-4450
Norfolk Cares Call Center Call for: Sewer Backup, Code Enforcement, Waste Management, Animal Control – everything else!	757-664-6510
Police Emergency	911

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance			\$1533.97
+ funds received	\$80.00		
- funds disbursed		\$343.55	
Ending Balance			\$1270.42

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Join us! Dues are \$10.00 per household per year. You can pay Treasurer Brian Daniel by cash or check at the next meeting or go to wardscorner.com and pay via PayPal.

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