



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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May 2019

www.wardscorner.com

President's Letter

Virginia's state legislative districts are a hot topic lately. The last round of redistricting in 2011 led to a gerrymandering lawsuit that has now made it to the US Supreme Court. We're potentially in for another round of the same after the next census completes in 2020. On May 10th, I had the chance to listen to a panel of redistricting commissioners from California. For the past decade, California has successfully managed their state legislative districts by an independent commission, not by their legislature. OneVirginia2021 is an advocacy group here in Virginia that wants to implement a commission as well, with some similarities to California and some features unique to Virginia. Their goal is to establish such a commission in time for the 2021

redistricting and state elections. District lines would be drawn by citizens, not legislators, with input from the population base to the commissioners. Based on what I heard from the panel, the 100th district has a high likelihood of being redrawn by such a commission because it groups dissimilar and disconnected communities, e.g. our Wards Corner neighborhood in Norfolk and Cape Charles on the Eastern Shore. For more information on this initiative, please visit www.onevirginia2021.org.

While the *current* redistricting of Hampton Roads and Richmond for the Virginia House of Delegates is waiting for a final Supreme Court ruling expected in

Come join us at our next meeting!

Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center

Monday, May 20, 2019, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Regular Speakers:

Martin Thomas, Vice Mayor, City of Norfolk

Adale Martin, School Board, Ward 1

William Old, NPD Community Resource Officer

Guest Speaker:

Steve Heretick, Delegate, 79th District

June, the process has come far enough that new districts have been drawn and approved and voters have been reassigned. Our neighborhood used to be split between the 89th district represented by Jay Jones and the 100th district represented by

Rob Bloxom. With the new districts, we are now part of the 79th district and no longer the 89th district. (We are still represented partially by Rob Bloxom in the 100th district.) Steve Heretick is our elected representative for the 79th district and will speak at our meeting on Monday, May 20th to share with us his platform for jobs, education, tax incentives, energy, and other important issues.

Please join us to welcome him and hear what he has to share!

Dates to Remember

Monday, May 20, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center, WCCL General Meeting

Monday, June 17, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center, WCCL General Meeting

See other scheduled dates throughout the newsletter!

I regret that I will be overseas on a work assignment for the upcoming meeting. Socko Pearson, our trusty first vice president, will lead the meeting in my absence. I will look forward to seeing you all again at our June

meeting.

Please mark your calendars for June 1st at 9:00am to help with our Adopt-A-Spot cleanup at the Wellness Center field, followed by Clean the Bay Day in the adjacent Newport Ave wetlands. We're looking forward to giving our neighborhood a fresh clean look as we head into the summer months.

Speaking of summer, keep an eye and ear out for a summer social in July and our annual picnic in September.

See you around the neighborhood!

Scott Guirlinger

Meeting Minutes

Wards Corner Civic League Membership Meeting

April 15, 2019

The meeting opened at 6:35 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Old was unable to attend. WCCL President Scott Guirlinger opened the meeting with the announcement that Officer Old was unable to attend for family reasons and asked if anyone had any concerns. No members responded; Scott stated he had asked for details about the pedestrian hit at the intersection of Newport Avenue and Little Creek Road. He had also asked about a drive by hooting at Talbot Park apartments. He also noted that truancy from Granby High School is still an issue.

Rick Dempsey, Civil Engineer for the City of Norfolk's Department of Utilities spoke next and provided the following updates:

- All sewer work is complete on the right away on Little Creek Road. He also provided information on upcoming work, including having gutters added to Ruthven.
- Road closures on Maycox Avenue and Granby Street were due to sewer repairs.
- The entire job should be finished by the end of June. He noted that 90-120 days are always added for date estimates in case of emergency change orders.
- A design consultant has reviewed the 600 block of Maycox Avenue for the gutters and storm drains. Rick also confirmed that gutters and storm drains will not be paved over on Maycox Avenue, Ruthven Road, and Burleigh Avenue so that the gutter pans remain exposed.
- Ruthven Road and Little Creek Road intersection to open in two to four weeks.
- All curbs installed will include aprons, with aprons done on only one side of the street at a time so people can park on the other side of the street.
- The next phase is scheduled for early next year, which includes North Shore Road to Colony Point Road.
- The 600 block North Shore Road will begin in January at the earliest.
- The next phase includes north of Little Creek Road.
- HRC will be taking over the new pump station at Granby Street.

The next speaker was Pete Rodda, City Assessor from the City of Norfolk. He provided background on his history as an assessor. He also introduced David Nelligar-King, another City Assessor.

Pete covered the following in his presentation:

- Values are on the increase and annual assessments respond to the market place.
- The effective date of the assessment is July 1; all reassessments must be complete by February of each year.
- Notices are mailed by March 8; informal appeals can be done in April and May.
- The official appeals filing deadline is June 1.
- Values are on open data portal city website, Norfolk Air.
- The assessor's office Board of Review meets in July and August for official appeals.
- Most appeals are resolved by the Assessor's office.
- Reassessments are based on the previous year's sales, with six-months lag between final sales date and when effective.
- Market value is defined by the what is offered for sale by a willing seller and what a willing buyer is willing to pay.
- The city is divided into 400 appraisals neighborhoods with similar social, environmental, economic, schools, 50 sub markets (groups of neighborhoods).
- Assessors compare your neighborhood sales and possible sub markets if not enough available in the neighborhood.
- Values have increased 3.72% overall citywide, with residential values up 3.8%.
- Call 757-664-4732 to appeal for assessment. Appeals have to be made in writing, with the

form available on the real estate assessor's page on the city website.

Scott went over the current Virginia House Districts. Wards Corner residents are no longer in 89th House District, with those residents now in the 79th House District. Steve Heretick is the Delegate for the 79th House District. The 100th House District has not changed so those residents are not affected by redistricting.

He also discussed the Wards Corner plan for the future of the business district. The Work Force Center is looking for new property and will leave the current site. Concern was expressed over the fact that there are currently twenty empty store fronts in the Wards Corner business area.

The Civic League is still looking for a rebranding message for Wards Corner, requesting a photographer that is willing to donate time, and along with a request for someone bona fide marketing skills to also donate time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

From the City of Norfolk:

Street Sweeping, Beautification or Necessity?

One city service that merits particular attention is our underrecognized street sweepers. Our crew of operators and maintenance personnel are working and sweeping year-round, except, of course, during inclement weather. In your residential neighborhood you may see them monthly. Downtown they can be found nightly from 2am-4am diligently keeping their slow, steady pace of about 6 mph down the roads as they sweep.

We all know the sweepers keep our streets looking clean, and people take pride in a clean area.

Residents enjoy clean neighborhoods and patrons enjoy shopping in clean business districts. Clean areas also provide a positive first impression which is good for our tourism industry. But did you know "beautification" is secondary to the sweeping program's true purpose?

Street sweeping is a vital operation that most of us do not understand the importance of and may even take for granted. It is an integral part of the city's stormwater program which focuses on water-quality improvement and flood reduction. This program is the first line of defense in minimizing stormwater

runoff which flows, untreated, directly into local waterways. By keeping the streets clean, we are keeping our waterways clean. We are also reducing the potential for clogged pipes which can cause flooding.

Just how efficient are they? Our fleet of sweepers remove more than 7,000 tons of solid debris per year, along roadways with curb and gutter. They also remove other pollutants such as oil, grease, nitrogen and phosphorus from the roadways. If these toxins are left on the streets, they will make their way into the storm drains and into our streams, waterways and ocean.

However, street sweepers can't do their job without the help of residents. They need residents to keep seasonal pollutants, such as grass and leaves, out of the gutters. Did you know grass clippings are considered pollutants? Ideally, clippings should be left on lawns to provide organic fertilizer. When grasscycled, or left on the lawn, they decompose into the grass quickly and return nutrients to the soil which results in a greener, healthier lawn. Grass that is blown, raked or washed into the gutters, and ultimately the storm drain, can not only clog drains and cause flooding, but also adds excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus to the water. This may lead to uncontrolled growth of algae which blocks sunlight and depletes the oxygen level in our waterways as it decays.

A challenge for street sweepers is the illegally parked vehicle. For every vehicle blocking the sweeper along its route, three parking spaces' worth of street are kept from being cleaned. Over an entire route, this adds up quickly and causes a high volume of contaminants to be picked up by stormwater runoff, making their way into waterways. What you do can have a direct affect on our water quality.

To support Norfolk's street sweeping crews, follow these simple tips:

- Remove vehicles from the street on your neighborhood's scheduled sweeping day. Leaving vehicles parked on the curb during street sweeping hours will prevent the sweeper from effectively remove debris.
- Remove any large limbs or other debris that can damage the brushing mechanisms on the sweepers. For assistance with bulk waste

pickup, contact Waste Management at 664-6510.

- Never place yard debris, such as grass clippings or leaves in the street. Aside from this being illegal (it is a violation of Norfolk City Code) the debris can end up flowing into our waterways and contribute to water pollution and flooding.

When you see our clean streets remember we are not only working towards beautification, but also water quality. Take a minute to support the program and move your car on sweeping days, clean out your curb and gutter and make sure your mower faces your yard and doesn't blow grass clippings into the street. Remind your neighbors of the same. Together we can make a difference and do good for our city!

Treasurer's Report

April 2019

	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKS	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balances	\$1381.93	\$30.00	\$258.76
Funds received	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds deposited	\$0	\$0	0
Funds dispersed	\$0	\$0	0
Ending balances	\$1381.93	\$30.00	\$258.76
Total Ending Balance All Accounts	\$1670.69		

Treasurer's notes:

No change from March 2019

WCCL 2019 Board of Directors

President	Scott Guirlinger	489-3938
1 st VP Membership	Socko Pearson	663-8878
2 nd 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

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