



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

June 2020

www.wardscorner.com

President's Message

Typically, June is the newsletter when I wish everyone a pleasant summer break as many of us celebrate the end of the school year and look forward to summer vacation plans. But this is no typical summer. I trust that your families, like ours, are finding ways to engage, connect, and relax in this time of the "new normal".

As a civic league, we do not plan to host any social events at Guads this summer like we normally would. Hopefully those can return next year. Our annual neighborhood picnic in September is still being considered, although it will most certainly be adapted in its format if we do decide to host it.

On recent runs and walks outside, our family had seen some gracious neighbors picking up trash while on their own walk. Feeling a bit inspired by this and prompted by the date of the (typically) annual Clean the Bay Day event, our family did a cleanup of our own. The photo at right captures our successful work. I hope that this may inspire you and your household to do similar. Any day can be a cleanup day. Share a photo with us and we can include it in a future newsletter!

In a recent windstorm, we lost one of our street trees. Perhaps some of you got to watch the "show" on Burleigh Ave as it was taken down. We are now preparing a request to the city for a replacement tree (or two). It's as simple as making a request through the myNorfolk app, website, or phone number. I know we are not the only residents to lose street trees in recent years. If you can help beautify our neighborhood by planting a replacement tree on your street, please prepare the request now so that the city can make proper plans before planting season this fall.

Finally, I would like to welcome Grea Sellers and his family to our Wards Corner neighborhood. Grea's extended family has been here for many years and now he has officially moved here as well (from another neighborhood nearby). Grea has volunteered to be our interim treasurer through

**Meeting cancelled due to
NFWC closure**
All updates are being posted to
WardsCorner.com



Guirlinger family after a successful street and waterway cleanup (June 6, 2020)

the end of this year and our next election period. Thank you Grea and welcome!

And to all of our residents, new and established, stay well and stay in touch. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood this summer.

Scott Guirlinger

Selected Notes from Greater Wards Corner Task Force Meeting June 4, 2020

City staff, representative council members, business owners, and civic leaders meet once per quarter to discuss concerns and hear updates on the greater

Wards Corner area. Below are some selected notes from the most recent meeting, held virtually on a conference call due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- A "Wards Corner" gateway sign to replace the one that was damaged and removed at the corner of Granby St & Admiral Taussig Blvd is ready, but the city is waiting for budget to install it.
- The black metal fencing in median of Granby St between Little Creek Rd and Louisiana Dr will be replaced soon using VDOT reimbursable funds. The previous fence was removed after sustaining extensive damage last year.
- Residents should continue to report any suspected code violations through the myNorfolk app, website, or phone number.
- All city pools (indoor and outdoor) are expected to remain closed for the summer. The city currently only has enough lifeguards to staff the beaches. All other lifeguards have been furloughed due to budget constraints.
- The city previously investigated alternatives for replacing the Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center (NFWC) indoor pool dome. This was done after the

previous engineering assessment of the dome indicated it was failing. The cost estimate for a "bubble" was \$2M and for a more substantial "tension tent" structure was \$3.2M. Both of these estimates included the cost of removing the current structure.

- There are concerns about the leaks in the indoor pool. There was no information regarding an engineering assessment of the leak or an estimate of the repair cost.
- Multiple concerns were raised about spending a significant amount to provide a temporary fix for a pool that is near the end of its useful economical life.
- A question was raised about the potential to enclose the outdoor pool for year-round use. The city engineers had no cost estimate for that but believe it is reasonable to assume it to be roughly the same as providing an enclosure over the indoor pool. (Notably, the cost of removing the dome was a small piece of the overall cost estimates cited above.)
- City staff agreed to provide official communication to residents concerning future plans for the NFWC as soon as possible.

A Message from Virginia Organizing

Hello Wards Corner, my name is Jay Monfort and I work with Virginia Organizing. We are a grassroots organization that brings a diverse group of people together to work for justice. Black, LGBTQ+, immigrant, low-income, and other communities are sometimes left out of the conversation when it comes to legislation. We believe that people who experience injustice are the experts about what their communities need. Our leaders are directly affected by the issues and bring their vision of change to our local government, school board, and other decision-makers. One of our recent achievements was to convince the Norfolk Public Schools and City Council to disrupt the school to prison pipeline by adding anti-racist policies and jobs to Norfolk Public Schools. These policies and jobs are aimed to foster positive development in all students. We want to hear from you and your community on what concerns you all have that will help make Norfolk a place of fair education and prosperity. Please feel free to email me at jaymonfort68@gmail.com and feel free to check out our website <https://virginia-organizing.org> to see more of what we are about and our history. I look forward to speaking with all of you and hearing your stories and what you think Norfolk needs.

Civic League Board of Directors Contact Information

www.wardscorner.com/board-of-directors

Treasurer's Report

	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKS	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1089.01	\$50.00	\$531.65
Funds received	0	0	\$9.41
Funds deposited	0	0	0
Funds dispersed	0	0	0
Ending balance	\$1089.01	\$50.00	\$541.06
Total balance	\$1680.07		

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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MARY BARNETT
President
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4122 Granby Street
Norfolk, VA 23504
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