



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

October 2020

www.wardscorner.com

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Monday, September 21st @ 6:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89994495775?pwd=SjdVdVM5bVd2ZnJFUTdpU2JNWnNLQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 9449 5775

Passcode: 598064

Featured Speakers:

L'Allegro Smith, Yes Norfolk Committee
Alan Smith & Jackie Glass, Informed Norfolk Team

President's Message

Our membership meeting this month will again be held virtually via Zoom. I hope that many of you can join us. It was great to see some new and infrequent faces at our September meeting, neighbors whose schedules, abilities, and responsibilities typically don't allow them to attend meetings in person but who were able to log on to the virtual call. Even when things hopefully return to "normal" in the future, we may consider still hosting a live stream of meetings so that such neighbors can continue to join us and participate in our neighborhood discussions.

Absentee voting is well underway, especially here in Virginia where I saw recently that we are leading the nation. For those who have seen the ballot already, you have no doubt noticed that it contains only one local concern – the referendum for casino gaming in the city. In lieu of a traditional political candidate forum this month ahead of the election, we will host representatives from committees voicing their concerns from both sides of the referendum debate. We have included informational flyers from their campaigns at the end of this newsletter. Please check out this information, as well as their websites and social media, and bring your questions to the meeting. We will have a 15-minute question and answer session following their brief presentations.

Normally this is the newsletter each year where I comment on how much I love Halloween in our neighborhood. Historically we put on a good show and have children come from all around to trick or treat. Alas, this year will be quite different. My own family most likely will not be going door to door like usual, but the kids will still dress up and we'll still decorate the yard a little bit. I

feel like somewhere a dentist is secretly smiling. More Halloween information from the city is included further down in this newsletter.

I do look forward to seeing Halloween decorations this month. (My family is currently attempting to replicate the great spider web at Little Creek & Restmere at our own house.) And I look forward to more holiday decorations in December. It really does warm my heart as the days get shorter to see the neighborhood draped in festive decorations after dark.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns and can't find what you need on the city website or through the official channels, please reach out to myself or the other board members. Hope to see you all soon!

Scott Guirlinger

Halloween 2020

This year, Halloween will look different due to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Events that involve large gatherings of individuals (e.g. large Halloween parties, haunted houses, etc) can increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and are not recommended. The more closely people interact with others and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus. This means choosing not to participate in standard Halloween activities during the pandemic. Below are some safe, alternative ways to participate in Halloween.

Halloween Activities		
Lowest Risk	Moderate Risk	Highest Risk
Carving/decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them	Participating in one-way trick-or-treating, where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while practicing social distancing	Trick-or-treating to a large number of houses or visiting multiple neighborhoods, where participants go door to door
Carving/decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends	Stopping only at houses where hosts are wearing masks and able to maintain 6 feet of distance with trick-or-treaters	Trick-or-treating at homes where hosts are not wearing a mask and where six feet of physical distancing is not maintained with trick-or-treaters
Decorating your house or living space	Attending a small, outside event such as trunk-or-treat, where social distancing can be maintained and everyone is wearing a mask	Attending parties or events that may become crowded and social distancing is not being practiced.
Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with household members in or around your home rather than going house to house	Visit pumpkin patches or orchards, where wearing masks is encouraged and enforced, and people are able to maintain at least six feet of physical distance	Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not part of your household.
Having a virtual Halloween costume contest		Going to indoor haunted houses where physical distancing is not practiced and screaming may occur.
Having a Halloween movie night with members of your household		

Only prepare goodie bags if you are COVID-19 negative. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparing the bags. Hand sanitizer should be used when soap and water is not available.

Trick-or-treating involves increased risk for transmitting COVID-19, due to the potential for close proximity to many people and the difficulty for children trick-or-treaters to follow mask use and social distancing recommendations. If you do choose to trick-or-treat, it is important to protect yourself using the following recommendations:

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past ten days, or have been in contact with someone with COVID in the past 14 days, follow VDH guidance to stay home and away from others. If you are self-isolating or self-quarantining, do not participate in trick-or-treating this year, and look for other virtual options to celebrate.
- Maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and others who do not live in your household at all times.
- Wash your hands before going trick-or-treating or handing out candy. Hand sanitizer should be used while trick-or-treating or handing out candy when soap and water are not available.
- Wear a cloth mask. Halloween masks may not fit snugly against the face and may not cover the nose and mouth. Halloween masks with gaps and holes do not protect against inhaling respiratory droplets from other people. Cloth masks should be worn under costume masks to keep a close fit over your nose and mouth. Ensure that any cloth mask worn under a costume mask does not inhibit the ability to breathe easily.
- If you hand out candy, consider setting up an area outside, like a folding table or chairs, to set out candy. Space out the placement of treats so that multiple people do not have to reach into the same bowl or find contactless ways to deliver treats, like a candy chute

that is more than six feet long. For trunk-or-treating, create distance between cars by parking in every other space.

For additional recommendations, visit the [Centers of Disease Control \(CDC\) website](https://www.cdc.gov) or [Virginia Department of Health Guidance for Halloween Events](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov).

Norfolk's Drive Thru Trunk or Treat

Looking for a fun and safe outdoor Halloween experience? 🎃 Grab the family, put on your favorite costume and have a scary good time at the Drive Thru Trunk or Treat at Lake Taylor High School on October 24th at 5:30 p.m. Zombies are welcome! 🧟🧟

Enjoy fun displays, first responder's demo, live radio broadcast and more! Registration per vehicle is required. Everyone must remain in the vehicle and adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions. Walk-ups will not be permitted. Visit [NorfolkTrunkorTreat.eventbrite.com](https://www.norfolktrunkortreat.eventbrite.com) to register today. #NorfolkVA



Additional ways you can participate in trunk or treat this year:

- Candy donations for the Trunk or Treat are being accepted at the 2nd Precinct, 2500 N. Military Highway. Please make sure that you state it is for trunk or treat.
- If your civic league or organization would like to decorate a car for the event, use the link below to register. You will not be handing out candy or be in contact with participants. They will pass decorated cars safely in their vehicles.
<https://www.norfolk.gov/FormCenter/Recreation-Parks-Open-Space-20/Drive-Thru-Trunk-or-Treat-Exhibitor-Appl-547>

Traffic Shifts on Granby Street Bridge

This is a notification about an upcoming temporary traffic pattern change taking place as part of the Granby Street Bridge Rehabilitation project. Starting the week of October 12 until spring 2021, the right northbound lane on the bridge will be closed to facilitate bridge repairs. The following conditions can be expected until spring 2021:

- Concrete barriers will separate northbound bridge traffic from the work zone in the right lane.
- Two lanes of traffic will remain open in each direction on Granby Street.
- The speed limit will be temporarily reduced to 25 MPH on northbound Granby Street, between 40th Street and Willow Wood Drive.
- The sidewalk on the east side of the bridge will be closed temporarily. The sidewalk on the west side of the bridge will remain open.
- The bike lane on the southbound side of the bridge will remain open.
- The fishing pier will be closed temporarily.

Starting on Tuesday, October 13 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., northbound Granby Street will be reduced temporarily to a single lane of traffic for up to three days. During these timeframes, the right northbound lane will be closed north of 41st Street, and the two right northbound lanes on the bridge will be closed. These lane closures will allow the contractor to set the concrete barriers for the extended closure of the right lane on the bridge. Business and residential entrances will be maintained during the lane closures.

Full closure of the northbound side of the bridge is anticipated in spring of 2021. The full closure of the southbound side of the bridge is not anticipated until 2022. Future updates will be announced on message boards along Granby Street, Norfolk City News Flashes, Nextdoor.com, and project update emails. For more information, visit www.norfolk.gov/granbybridge. Anyone wishing to join the project update email list can send a request to olga.beltsar@norfolk.gov.

Water and Sewer Improvements

The City of Norfolk's Department of Utilities is pleased to have scheduled a \$3 million improvement project in our neighborhood. The project area (shown on the map below) will receive new sanitary sewer and water pipes and fully resurfaced streets.

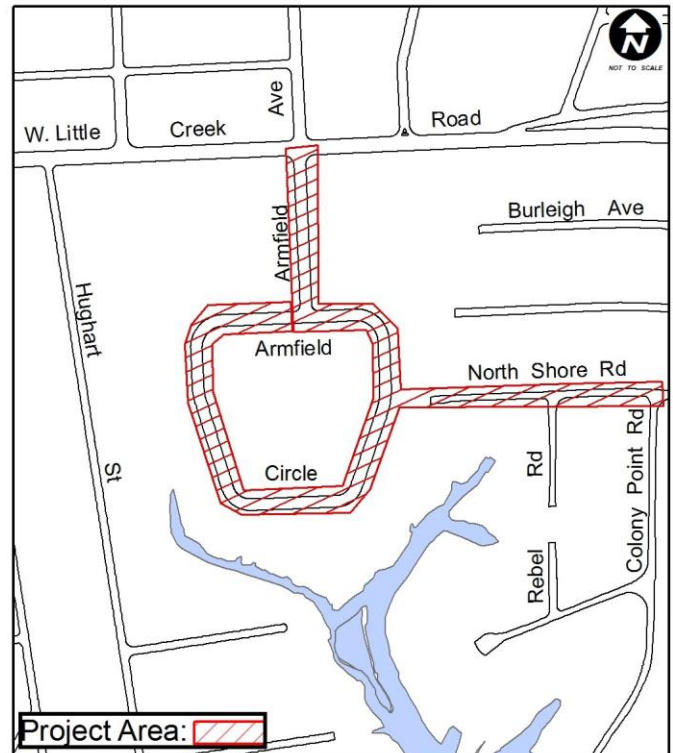
Planned Start of Construction: Winter 2020/2021

Anticipated End of Construction: Winter 2021/2022

Contractor: Trident Civil

Access: Access to businesses and residences will be maintained throughout construction.

The City and our contractor will do our best to minimize the unavoidable disruptions associated with the construction. If you have any questions regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact the city's on-site construction inspector, Burt Cox. He can be reached by cell phone at 837-7848 to respond quickly. You may also contact the project manager, Rick Dempsey, at 266-9760, or at richard.dempsey@norfolk.gov.



The Department of Utilities looks forward to completing this project that will enhance your water and sanitary sewer services for years to come.

Membership Meeting Minutes September 21, 2020

(Virtual meeting recording available on request)

The meeting opened at 6:35.

President Scott Guirlinger welcomed everyone to the first virtual WCCL meeting. First time visitors, Lauren Gyorfi and Kellie Dickerson, introduced themselves at Scott's request. The Pledge of Allegiance was then said to a virtual flag.

Community Resource Officer (CRO), Officer Old, is no longer with the NPD and has moved. Our new CRO, Officer Toth, added Officer Old's districts to his existing districts after Officer Old left. He reported on the following:

Crimes:

- August 1 – items taken from an automobile
- August 8 - robbery from individual at bus station (scooter)/August 8 – auto larceny (vehicle unlocked)
- August 9 - Birmingham home robbery
- August 14 - auto theft on Burleigh, license plate stolen
- August 16 – individual rummaging through auto on Maycox
- August 17 – vehicle stolen 7500 block Newport; found next morning
- September 3 – burglary of garden tools; entry through garage
- Out of WCCL area: August 23 Harvard street; gunshot disturbance but no arrests

Discussions:

- Traffic on Burleigh, Maycox, and North Shore in the afternoons was discussed. Sharp uptick due to the construction at Wards Corner intersection. Complaints about speed and motorists ignoring stop signs were addressed.
- Linda Pressler brought up an abandoned car on Ruthven, which was tagged in May and still needs to be picked up.
- Kari Buchanan asked about city-wide crime during pandemic; Officer Toth provided that for his districts, there was more auto larceny.

The second speaker was Lenny Matthews, Norfolk City Engineer to discuss construction projects:

- An emergency repair was being performed at Granby and Little Creek for a water leak that started August 23. The work was beyond city capabilities, so the city engaged a contractor. Completion was scheduled for September 23; the updated completion date was September 28 to have temporary pavement down to restore traffic. The cause was an aging infrastructure with an older water main failing. Additional late-night shutdowns for permanent pavement work are scheduled for permanent paving work.
- He will send an update on the Diven/Little Creek sewer/water work, which was not expected to be done before next winter. Water shutdowns are anticipated but affect residents will be notified.

Atoyy Carrington of the Norfolk Electoral Board spoke next. She provided the following information:

- Early voting started on September 18 at City Hall.
- Early voting and absentee voting are essentially the same thing.
- Last day to register to vote is October 13. It's best to do it online.
- The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 23 by 5 pm; Virginia has no excuse absentee voting.
- Four satellite offices will be available for early voting beginning October 12: Berkeley Community, Jordan Newby Library, Lambert's Point Community Center,

Pretlow Anchor Branch Library. You can vote in person at any of these sites until October 31.

- Absentee ballot can go to drop off boxes that will always be manned. You cannot take anyone else's ballot to the satellite office to drop off; you must be present to drop off.
- If you requested absentee ballot but want to vote in person, take your absentee ballot downtown to vote. Or on Election Day can take to precinct and vote in person.
- While you need identification to vote, a picture ID is not required; a bill in your name with your address can be accepted.
- Mailed in ballots must be postmarked by November 3 and make it to the office by Friday, November 6, 12:00 noon to be counted. Ballots put in ballot boxes are taken down and processed every day
- Check Norfolk. Gov/elections to see if your ballot arrived.
- The City of Norfolk granted money to purchase a highspeed scanner. Numbers from Tuesday, Nov 3 will not be official until the Friday after election.

Vice Mayor Martin Thomas was the next speaker with city updates.

- Norfolk is in an economic crisis and a budget crisis due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Norfolk made difficult decisions when the pandemic began, with the decision to close partially because of budget and partially because of social distancing.
- Because of these decisions, Norfolk does not have to lay off a bunch of people, although some were laid off at the beginning of the year.
- Norfolk is waiting for a vaccine to fully open everything.
- The city is extending WIFI in public buildings into parking lots for residents/students.
- State law prohibits providing free internet to less advantaged neighborhoods, as Cox reminded the city.
- The My Norfolk app, which works on both Android and IOS devices, can be used to request trash pickup, report abandoned vehicles, etc. Norfolk is trying to do a data driven approach and wants people to use the app.
- The question was asked if anytime fulltime Norfolk city employees are below the poverty line. An answer will be provided.
- Development updates in the area include:
 - Real estate agents looking at shopping center but no retail coming soon.
 - The city is working to get the Workforce out of Wards Corner.
 - There is interest in the Farm Fresh property.
 - Aldi's is interested in a spot in Wards Corner.
 - The Shell gas station has been sold to Harris Teeter and will be the Harris Teeter gas station.

- The city has purchased most of Military Circle through third party buyer, with significant interest from developer for a major development project for mixed use: offices, living spaces - maybe even extended lite rail.
- VDOT overpass over Granby and Little Creek will be expanded.
- Malls are dying, including McArthur. More stores are leaving in the next few weeks. The city does not own McArthur but is working to buy it.
- The economy is not going to improve until people feel safe to go out in public again.

School Board Chair Adale Martin provided school updates:

- Schools shut down on March 14 and shifted to online learning. Staff and students did okay.
- Norfolk was one the earliest districts to plan for virtual learning.
- All classes were started virtually, but 100 will transition to in person learning as soon as it's safe.
- While shut down, the School Board held one virtual monthly meeting. They have returned to two meetings a month and are sticking to the pre-Covid calendar.
- The administration is already planning for school openings.
- Adale is now the board chair with Rodney Jordan as vice chair.
- They have partnered with the Y, and boys/girls clubs for some in person learning for essential workers with reasonable pricing.
- Chrome books were distributed to all students this past spring; they were allowed to keep over the summer unless transitioning to the next school. Chrome books are per student not per household.
- WIFI hot spots will be distributed per household, which will allow for 14-15 devices to be used. Cox is working school to provide internet access.

- Special needs kids are adhering to IEPs and 504s.
- Adale can be reached through the website.
- Special priority is given for in-person learning to pre-K-3rd grade, special needs, and non-English speakers; schools are open to limited capacity for these students.
- If parents have a concern, they can address with teacher, and then principle,
- Some parents will not accept a school device, but any child who needs device will otherwise receive one.

Next month's meeting will include speakers related to the planned casino in Norfolk. Any questions should be passed along to Scott. The next meeting will be held virtually, Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Treasurer's Report

	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKS	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1,129.01	\$50.00	\$625.75
Funds received	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.23
Funds deposited	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$1,169.01	\$50.00	\$653.98
Total balance	\$1,872.99		

Civic League Board of Directors

Contact Information

www.wardscorner.com/board-of-directors



Important Numbers

Police Non-Emergency	757-823-4433
Community Resource Officer	757-651-4577
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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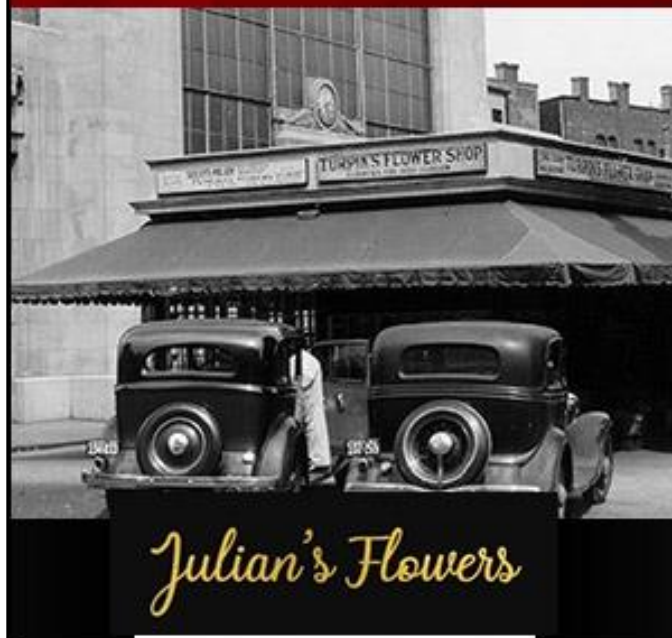


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NORFOLK RESORT & CASINO LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN VOTE YES!

Many of Norfolk's residents are on board with a Downtown Norfolk riverfront casino that will bring thousands of jobs and millions of dollars for public schools. The last remaining step is a citywide referendum on November 3rd. **Can we count on you to vote YES?**

The proposed Norfolk Resort & Casino will feature a full-service 300-room hotel, a number of world-class restaurants, a luxurious spa and pool, an entertainment venue and of course, a variety of fun table games, slot machines and a sportsbook. But voting YES in November means so much more than just bringing top-notch entertainment to Norfolk.



**\$50 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**



**\$30 MILLION IN ANNUAL TAX
REVENUE FOR NORFOLK**

6.2 million
annual visitors



2,480
permanent jobs
and
2,000+
construction jobs

\$100 million in
annual employee
earnings and **\$15
million** in annual
employee benefits

\$754 million
in annual total
economic
impact for the
City of Norfolk

\$36 million in
annual payroll-
related taxes



\$92 million
in annual
purchases for
goods and
services

Voting YES is saying **YES** to more money for public schools, **YES** to more city revenue for core services, and **YES** to more good-paying jobs.

ALLINNORFOLK.COM



1. No Competitive Bid Process The City ignored recommendations from a state report on gaming (JLARC) giving exclusive rights to the Pamunkey and a Tennessee video gaming magnate. Portsmouth chose a known casino operator with established clientele and reputation.

2. Casinos Adversely Affect Neighboring Communities. Casinos disproportionately damage neighboring African American communities with increases in social services, addiction, divorce, bankruptcy, sex trafficking.

3. Pamunkey Tribe Actively Practices Racial Discrimination. The Pamunkey have racist laws to reject membership to black Pamunkey. Their Federal recognition was opposed by the Congressional Black Caucus because of it.

4. Direct Negative Effect To Small Businesses & Restaurants. The JLARC report states only 9% of visitors to a Norfolk casino will come from out of state, but casino lobbyists promise boon to local tourism. Casino visitors are unlikely to visit downtown venues from such an isolated location.

5. Casino Overpromises & Underdelivers Jobs. The casino contract promises only 25 staffed gaming tables. The majority of casino space will be for unstaffed video gaming machines.

6. Casino Only Offers “Good Faith Effort” To Hire Local. No requirements to hire minorities, no real projections for full-, part-time or contract employees and no enforcement.

7. The Casino Will Lower The City’s Median Income. New retail & employers look at median before locating here. The JLARC report anticipates median wages of approx. \$33,000-- well below Norfolk’s current median income. 43% of jobs projected to be low skill/ low wage.

8. No Independent Economic Impact Study Done. True costs to social services, police, small businesses & restaurants unknown. No consistent estimates for unique annual visitors/ where visitors will come from. No forecast to support that casino visitors will spend off site.

9. Promised Education Funds Are Drop In Bucket. The \$10M payment for land is a fraction of what is needed to renovate Maury & Booker T. The “\$50 million for schools” promised by the casino lobby goes to the state- only 6% of our local school budgets come from gaming.

10. Site Is Isolated and Environmentally Hazardous. Building on the encapsulated hazardous waste could damage our river. The location is hard to access; an EPA study includes adding and moving existing 264 ramps. We’ll have traffic jams for years, already a choke point for bridge openings.

Please vote NO-- it's not a done deal, it's a bad deal

Is it really this bad? Factcheck us at votenocasino-norfolk.com paid for by Informed Norfolk