



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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December 2020

www.wardscorner.com

Holiday Lights Contest

Vote now through noon on December 22nd!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9RKTTY>

Categories: Traditional, Whimsical, Best-in-Show

No meeting this month

President's Message

For the past few years, we have held a joint holiday party in December with the Suburban Acres civic league. Given the safety concerns and government restrictions currently in place, this year's party is simply not possible. Our civic league board also felt that meeting on Monday, December 21st might prove challenging given how close that date is to year-end holidays and vacations.

So instead, we're asking all of you as our neighbors to take a walk (or drive) that night to see the holiday lights decorations around the neighborhood and submit your favorite choices to us. Hopefully it can be a bit like Halloween where you can meet and greet your neighbors while walking around the neighborhood (from a safe social distance of course). We're hoping that the weather is agreeable, of course. Then submit your votes through the link in the banner at the top of this newsletter any time before noon on Tuesday, December 22nd. We will announce the winners shortly after we tally the votes.

The holiday decorations around our neighborhood really do warm my heart here in December, particularly now that we are in the period where we have some of the shortest daylight hours. We've added a few new lights to our own home's display this year. I doubt it's enough to help us win any prizes, but I hope you enjoy the lights nonetheless.

Looking ahead to next year, myself and my fellow board members are seeking some replacements for board members that are moving on. We value diversity of opinions and would appreciate your fresh perspective if you would please consider joining us. We support our civic league's basic functions and activities, which are:

- Hosting monthly membership meetings
- Hosting periodic social events
- Publishing this monthly informational newsletter

- Advocating for residents to the city
- Addressing safety concerns
- Coordinating neighborhood beautification and cleanup projects
- Educating and empowering residents through meeting speakers
- Connecting residents to city staff and elected officials

As you can see, we try to keep it simple and efficient. If you have any questions, I am always happy to answer them. Feel free to reach out to me at scott.guirlinger@gmail.com or 757-489-3938.

And as always, if you have any general 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. Happy Holidays! And here's to 2021!

Scott Guirlinger

Board Members Needed!

Our annual civic league board elections will be held at our membership meeting on January 25th. We currently have the following positions open. If you have any interest in doing a little more with your civic league in the new year, please reach out to president Scott Guirlinger (scott.guirlinger@gmail.com or 757-489-3938) or any other board member for more information. The commitment is relatively minimal and we'd love for you to join us!

- Vice President (1 of 2)
- Secretary
- Newsletter Editor

Holiday Lights Night! – December 21st

In lieu of a December meeting and holiday party this year, we will instead ask residents to walk (or drive) around the neighborhood on December 21st and help us decide who should be our holiday lights contest winners. Vote online through noon on Tuesday, December 22nd at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9RKTTKY>. We will have two decoration categories and three prizes:

- Traditional
- Whimsical
- Best-in-Show

Category and overall winners will each receive gift certificates to local Wards Corner restaurants.

Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces Master Plan

The Recreation, Parks & Open Space department is currently updating its comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan provides guidance for future recreational programming, park development, facility improvements, land acquisition and more. Norfolk residents are invited to join this process. Facilitated by PROS Consulting, Inc., residents will be engaged in thoughtful discussions through live polling, Q&A, and public feedback. More information is available at KeepingYouFirst.com.



Did you know that 70% of the sanitary sewer blockages and overflows in the City of Norfolk are caused by the buildup of fats, oils and grease? Norfolk encourages at-home chefs to collect and dispose of these drain-clogging substances properly.

- Reuse or recycle turkey frying oil– Fried turkey is a treat, but what is the trick to disposing of all that leftover oil? Run it through a strainer into its original container, and you can use it again for future frying for up to six months or six hours of frying time. Or, freeze the container and throw the hardened oil away on trash day. Large amounts of oil, up to five gallons of liquid or 75 pounds of solid waste per visit, can be recycled at the SPSA's Norfolk Transfer Station, 3136 Woodland Avenue, Tuesday & Saturday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. For

additional information click [here](#) or call SPSA: 757-961-3981.

- Can standing grease – The turkey frying disposal method also applies to standing grease leftover from cooking bacon, sausage and other fried foods. Pour the left-over cooking oil in a heat-safe can, pop it in the freezer to harden and toss the can out with the trash.
- Trash oily substances – Avoid depositing oil-based substances such as lard, shortening, butter, margarine, dairy products, batter and icing, salad dressings and sauces into the drain, where they can congeal and clog the pipes. Dump these leftovers in the garbage instead.
- Scrap leftover foods– Throw food scraps in the trash or compost them. Use a napkin or paper towel to wipe away residue from serving dishes and plates. Then rinse these items over a sink strainer to catch and dispose of any remaining food particles.
- Avoid the garbage disposals: These appliances do break food scraps down into smaller pieces, but they just end up clinging to the pipe walls. Over time, the buildup increases, blocks the flow of wastewater and leads to backups.

FOG is not only a nuisance but an environmental concern as well! If you see water where it shouldn't be, call Utilities 24/7/365 at 757-823-1000. For more tips on keeping a clean, green kitchen, visit www.askHRgreen.org.

Membership Meeting Minutes November 16, 2020

(Virtual meeting recording available on request)

The meeting was opened by Wards Corner Civic League President Scott Guirlinger.

Officer Toth provided an update of crime-related events in the past month.

Rick Dempsey of the Norfolk Department of Utilities provided an update on Phase 6 Wards Corner water and sewer improvements.

- The updates to water/sewer down North Shore to Armfield Circle in Colony Point apartments will not impact Little Creek Road.
- The contractor was ahead of schedule on last project so it will be done sooner than expected - should be complete by 11-12/2021.
- Only sections at a time will be disturbed; residents can call if a construction vehicle is blocking access to a home.
- The project will start in the next few weeks.

- The Divan street project is still in progress with work on Little Creek Road; the project will last approximately another six months.

Scott Mahone of the office Emergency Management provided information on the CERT emergency program:

- All volunteer group trained to help families and Norfolk residents in the case of an emergency.
- If a shelter is opened, CERT members handle pets.
- Volunteers need to be 18+ and anyone can volunteer, even with a disability.
- The course teaches about disaster preparedness, hazards, fire safety, fire extinguishers; medical operations; basic first aid.
- There are eight classes with a different expert every class.
- The class is totally free and begins February 23 on Tuesday nights at 3661 Virginia Beach Blvd.

Councilwoman Andria McClellan provided an update on city plans for reopening.

- The budget will affect reopening plans but the budget loss is not as bad as anticipated.
- There is a loss of consumption taxes but hotels are doing better than anticipated. Norfolk and Virginia Beach hotels are doing better than most around the country.
- COVID is spiking around the country with a small spike in Norfolk.
- The Northside pool and some libraries are opening.
- CARES act funding has to be spent by end of year and we do not know if additional funds are coming.
- The Hampton Roads Planning Commission has adopted a legislative agenda of affordable housing, education, wind.
- HRT is examining the eastern branch of light rail but the soon light rail would be available is eight years.
- Engage Norfolk will be held the second Sunday in February and may be in a virtual setting.
- Andria can be reached at Andria.mcclellan@norfolk.gov

Jamie Goldin introduced herself as the senior neighborhood specialist. She took over the position in January; she runs the Wards Corner Task Force and works with the civic leagues.

Martin Thomas spoke next with an additional update:

- Angelia Williams Graves is running for General Assembly.
- Condolences are offered to the English family as Claire English has passed away.

- The Governor has announced support to legalize marijuana.
- The Casino has been authorized to move forward.

Adale Martin provided school updates.

- Norfolk is continuing with virtual schooling and will not be going back any time soon.
- Some schools are still hosting activities and food distribution is still happening with Granby High School as one of them.
- Winter high school sports will be held.

Scott gave the following WCCL update:

- There will be no Christmas party this year but the civic league is trying to figure out a way for people to drive around and cast votes.
- The prospective date for that is Monday, December 21. Details are being worked out
- Adopt-a-spot will be held on Saturday, December 5 at 9:00am at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center field.
- The next membership meeting is January 25.
- There will be board elections. If interested in being on board, reach out to Scott or any board member.
- Remember to sign up online for the newsletter.

The Task Force update was also provided. Codes enforcement talked about getting businesses to clean up in business corridor.

Ted Drake represented Delegate Robert Bloxom and reminded everyone that the Redistricting Amendment passed and should be in place for elections for 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Treasurer's Report

	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKS	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1,169.01	\$50.00	\$691.62
Funds received	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$0.59
Funds deposited	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$1,169.01	\$50.00	\$691.03
Total balance	\$1,910.04		

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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