



## 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

April 2021

[www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com)

Upcoming Events

### Virtual Meeting via Zoom Monday, April 19th @ 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83296609667?pwd=WEVmME1MaGJPSXVET2p6aTRoRTR2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 832 9660 9667

Passcode: 759912

### Featured Speaker:

Rob Bloxom, Delegate, 100th District

### Other Speaker:

Chris Burge, Board Member, Friends of Norfolk Public Library

### Adopt-A-Spot Cleanup Saturday, May 15th @ 9:00am Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center

Upcoming Events

## President's Message

Hope on the horizon? Is the end in sight? Hard to tell, but vaccinations are now open to everyone. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website for how you can get your COVID-19 vaccination today. I know everyone's situation is unique, but if you are able, please do your part to help end this pandemic and get your vaccination shot.

At this month's meeting we will hear from our usual guests plus two additional speakers. The first is Chris Burge, who will talk to us about the concerns that the Friends of the Norfolk Public Library have with most of the libraries in our city remaining closed for more than one year. While there is no library very close to Wards Corner (yet), our civic league does keep a close eye on the Wellness Center that sits within our boundaries where similar concerns have been raised. Our libraries (and our recreation centers) are more vital than just nice-to-have amenities for many of Norfolk's residents and if we are going to be an inclusive city, we need to consider the needs of our neighbors as well as our own.

Our featured speaker this month will be Delegate Rob Bloxom who represents the 100th district in our state legislature, which includes approximately half of our civic

league residents. (The other half are in the 79th district, currently represented by Steve Heretick.) There has been some significant legislation both proposed and passed in our state House of Delegates this year. Rob will update us on these recent developments and his perspective on what they mean for residents.

Finally, I want to take a minute to give a big THANK YOU to Socko Pearson for all that he has done for our civic league over the past several years. Socko has been a regular fixture at our civic league meetings and on our board for a while. His experience and passion for connecting people and businesses and moving this city and region forward are an asset to all of us. Socko recently moved to West Belvedere, and so while we will miss him here in Wards Corner proper, we know that he's still close by and we look forward to still seeing him around the area and perhaps at some of our meetings.

Stay well, stay safe, and keep in touch. Thanks for reading and I'll look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting and/or around the neighborhood.

*Scott Guirlinger*

## Friends of the Norfolk Public Library

*Chris Burge, a Board Member from the FNPL will join us at this month's Civic League Meeting.*

Our MISSION is to engage in a variety of activities from raising money, to fostering a love for reading and learning, including:

- Advocating for increased state and local funding/improvement of existing facilities
- Funding special projects:
  - summer lunch book distribution
  - Pretlow Library' studio space
  - enhancement to the system's digital library
  - branch discretionary funds
  - Mary Pretlow Tea
- Sponsoring Summer Reading Program
- Conducting an annual citywide Book Review contest for grades 4-12
- Other things we do:
  - Little Free Libraries (65 + 5)
  - Tales to Tails
  - Books 'n Brew & Vino, too
  - Recycled Reads Book Sale

### **BRING BACK OUR LIBRARIES**

Friends of the Norfolk Public Libraries (FNPL) has recently embarked on a campaign to bring back our libraries.

Out of 13 total branches:

- **6 neighborhood branches** are completely closed.
  - **3 anchor branches** are open for limited hours, 5 days per week.
  - **3 neighborhood branches** are open only 2 days per week, with only Grab & Go book pick-up available. Computer centers are closed, and all programming is online.
- This is in addition to **massive furloughs**, which effectively became permanent terminations.

The FNPL Board believes Norfolk's citizens deserve access to the technology, connectivity and programming offered at branches within their own neighborhoods. The proposed budget asks them to continue waiting -- even as 29% have little or no internet access at home.

To learn more, you may visit the website at:

[www.friendsnplva.com](http://www.friendsnplva.com)

## Wards Corner Civic League Adopt-A-Spot

Our Civic League meets quarterly to clean up our designated space on the grounds of the Norfolk Fitness & Wellness center as part of the City of Norfolk's Adopt A Spot program. On a chilly day in February, a dedicated group of volunteers met and collected quite a bit of trash to haul away. Our next cleanup day will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. More details will be featured on the Wards Corner website and in this newsletter.



## Treasurer's Report

	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKS	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1,224.01	\$50.00	\$860.41
Funds received	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds deposited	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$1,234.01	\$50.00	\$860.41
Total balance	\$2,144.42		

## Civic League Board of Directors

Contact Information

[www.wardscorner.com/board-of-directors](http://www.wardscorner.com/board-of-directors)

## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A FLOOD?

As a low lying coastal area in close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and several rivers, the City of Norfolk is prone to flooding. Floods can occur at any time of year due to heavy rain, nor'easters, hurricanes, or high tides. Heavy and prolonged rainfall can exceed the capacity of the drainage system, while storm flooding may result from wind-driven surge. Tidal flooding can occur on sunny days or can magnify the impacts of rain or storm flooding. All of these flood types can affect city streets and infrastructure and private property, creating potentially dangerous conditions. Because of Norfolk's relatively flat topography, flooding can occur almost anywhere in the City. **Being prepared is your best defense against a flood.**

### **Step 1 - KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD**

Regulated floodplains are illustrated on inundation maps called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). A FIRM is the official map for a community on which FEMA has delineated both the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. SFHAs represent the areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual chance flood event. Structures located in the SFHA have a 26-percent chance of flooding during the life of a standard 30-year mortgage. FIRM maps are available for free public viewing online at [msc.fema.gov/portal](https://msc.fema.gov/portal). You can also use the Norfolk Air web map tool or contact the Department of City Planning at 757-664-4752 to determine the flood zone for your property. The Planning Department maintains completed FEMA Elevation Certificates on new and substantially improved buildings.

### **Step 2 - INSURE YOUR PROPERTY**

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy. The City of Norfolk participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, **so that flood insurance is available to everyone in the City**, including homeowners, condo owners, commercial property owners, and renters. Homeowners can get up to \$250,000 of coverage and businesses up to \$500,000. Renters can obtain up to \$100,000 of contents coverage. Due to Norfolk's participation in the Community Rating System, you will receive a reduction in your insurance premium. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. That means now is the

best time to buy flood insurance! Contact your preferred insurance agency for more information. Additional information can be found online at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or by calling 1-888-379-9531.

### **Step 3 - PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY**

- The City of Norfolk Division of Emergency Management coordinates with the
- National Weather Service (NWS) in issuing public warnings about expected floods and storms. Local TV and radio stations may announce NWS advisories and info.
- Register to receive emergency notifications through Norfolk Alert.
- Tune-in to local radio stations like WSNB (91.1) and local TV for updates on storms and information on when floodwaters may be approaching.
- All hazard NOAA Weather Radios (NWR) are available for purchase in local electronic retail or department stores and provide access to the NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies 162.550 and 162.450.
- If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker. If you lose power, turn off all major appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or in standing water.
- Turn off the gas and be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use any open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.
- Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.
- Discuss your family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so contact one another beforehand and decide how you will get back together in case of an emergency.
- Do not disregard road barriers. Never attempt to drive through flooded roads. Floodwaters can conceal damage underneath. As little as two feet of running water can carry away most vehicles, including SUV's. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**

### **Step 4 - PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY**

If the first finished floor elevation of your property is lower than the 1% annual chance flood elevation shown on the FEMA, consider elevating your structure. If a flood is imminent, protect your property by sandbagging areas vulnerable to the

entry of water. Move valuables and furniture to the highest floor to minimize damages. The City of Norfolk will make a site visit to provide one-on-one advice to property owners regarding flooding and drainage issues on private property. For more information, contact the the City's Floodplain Administrator at 757-664-4750.

### **Step 5 - BUILD RESPONSIBLY**

You must obtain a building permit before beginning any repair, addition, or new construction. Norfolk's Zoning Ordinance requires that if your structure is substantially damaged or improved it must meet the construction requirements for a new building. For example, this means all new and substantially improved residential buildings in the AE and AH zones must be built with the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the 1% annual chance flood plus three feet of freeboard. Know the substantial damage rules before you begin repairs. You should always keep areas between lots clear to maintain drainage.

Before you build, fill, or otherwise develop in a floodplain, contact the Development Services Center at 757-664-6565 to discuss city regulations in more detail.

## **Residential Best Management Practices (BMP) Resources**

### **City of Norfolk, Office of Resilience, Retain Your Rain**

<https://www.norfolk.gov/3700/Retain-Your-Rain>  
<https://www.norfolk.gov/3745/Home-Projects>

- Conservation Landscaping
- Infiltration
- Rain Barrels
- Lawn Management
- Pervious Pavers
- Rain Gardens
- Tree Planting

### **Bay Star Homes**

<https://www.norfolk.gov/2806/Bay-Star-Homes>

### **River Star Homes**

<https://elizabethriver.org/river-star-homes>

### **AskHRgreen**

<https://askhrgreen.org/>

Media Tip sheets (search maintenance):

- Rain Barrel Maintenance
- Ditch and Grass Channel Maintenance
- Infiltration Area Maintenance
- Permeable Pavement Maintenance
- Rain Garden Maintenance

### **Virginia Cooperative Extension**

<https://resources.ext.vt.edu/>

Stormwater Management for Homeowners Fact Sheets (series of 6)

- 1 - Rooftop Redirection
- 2 - Rain Barrels
- 3 - Permeable Pavement
- 4 - Grass Swales
- 5 - Rain Gardens
- 6 - Buffers

Rain Garden Plants

Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices (15-part series)

### **Chesapeake Stormwater Network**

<https://chesapeakestormwater.net/training-library/stormwater-bmps/>

### **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

<http://www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org/>

Design Your Yard Online - Develop a plan to install a Rain Garden or Conservation Landscape in your yard

### **Roanoke Stormwater Ideabook for Single Family Homeowners**

<https://www.roanokeva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/347/Roanoke-Stormwater-Ideabook-for-Single-Family-Homeowners-PDF>

### **Lynnhaven River Now**

<https://www.lynnhavenrivenow.org>

### **Chesapeake Stormwater Network**

Homeowner Guide For a More Bay-Friendly Property (Instructions on how to design and install several BMPs)

<https://chesapeakestormwater.net/2014/06/residential-stormwater-bmp-workshop/>

## Membership Meeting Minutes March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*(Virtual meeting recording available on request)*

The meeting was opened by President Scott Guirlinger.

Officer Steven Toth provided an update on criminal activity in the Wards Corner area and answered questions.

- Police curfew cars have been directed to patrol the Wards Corner area around W Little Creek Road.
- Police department has been working with Harbor Point Apartment complex management to charge individuals with trespassing that do not belong on the property.

Eric Beaver, Treasurer, Bike Norfolk provided information about the Granby Street bike lanes project/study and answered questions.

- General Project Site: <https://www.norfolk.gov/granbybike> (check out the survey and interactive comment map links on the site) General Comments: <https://www.norfolk.gov/FormCenter/Transit-62/Granby-Bike-Lane-Questions-and-Comments-578>  
Local contact: Eric Beaver, Treasurer - Bike Norfolk, [ejb181@gmail.com](mailto:ejb181@gmail.com)

Sabrina Carr, Outreach Coordinator, The Up-Center's Foster Care & Adoption Program presented information about the agency and answered questions.

[Sabrina.carr@theupcenter.org](mailto:Sabrina.carr@theupcenter.org), 757-965-8638

- Reviewed some requirements and training to become a foster parent.

Alan Boring, Senior Business Development Manager, City of Norfolk provided information on the HRBT Development Event and the St. Paul's Transformation project and answered questions.

- Dual city procurement event with Norfolk and Hampton for HRBT Development Opportunities **Registration**  
**Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridging-the-connection-two-cities-two-sessions->

[many-opportunities-tickets-140331283647](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridging-the-connection-two-cities-two-sessions-)

### Agenda:

<https://norfolkdevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Bridging-the-Connection-Two-Cities.-Two-Sessions.-Event-Agenda-Final-External-Use.pdf>

### Project

**Website:** <https://hrbtexpansion.org>

- St. Paul's Transformation Project  
**Office of St. Paul's Transformation:** <https://www.norfolk.gov/4879/Office-of-St-Pauls-Transformation>  
Norfolk Development contact: Alan Boring, [alan.boring@norfolk.gov](mailto:alan.boring@norfolk.gov), 757.664.4317
- He will check on the business going into the old Farm Fresh location on Military Highway.

Vice Mayor Martin Thomas added city updates and answered questions.

- Preliminary discussions with city manager regarding next year's budget with two major requests.
  - Pursuing \$4 million to begin planning for the next generation of the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center.
  - Significant investment in police force.
- City manager to present budget end of March.
- COVID vaccine updates.
- Wards Corner updates.
  - No business expansions currently due to COVID.
- Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center preparing to open outdoor pool this summer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. It will be virtual.

President Scott Guirlinger then closed the meeting.



## Important Numbers

Police Non-Emergency	<b>757-823-4433</b>
Community Resource Officer	<b>757-651-4577</b>
Police Red Sector	<b>757-823-4450</b>
Norfolk Cares Call Center Call for: Sewer Backup, Code Enforcement, Waste Management, Animal Control – everything else!	<b>757-664-6510</b>
Police Emergency	<b>911</b>

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**PUT AN END TO ELDER ABUSE**

**FOR HELP CALL**

**NORFOLK FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

**MAIN OFFICE**

**757-330-0376**

**YWCA CRISIS HOTLINE**

**757-251-0144**

**[WWW.NORFOLKFJC.ORG](http://WWW.NORFOLKFJC.ORG)**



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