



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

May 2021

www.wardscorner.com

Upcoming Events

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Monday, May 17th @ 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87668040653?pwd=c3NMazQ4MEJOcVEzN3FQOS8yaks5QT09>

Meeting ID: 876 6804 0653

Passcode: 661848

Featured Guests:

79th District Democratic Candidates

Steve Heretick (incumbent), Nadarius Clark, Dante' Walston

Commonwealth's Attorney Democratic Candidates

Ramin Fatehi, Amina Matheny-Willard, Megan Zwisohn

Upcoming Events

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

President's Message

Martin Thomas hinted at some big news for Norfolk last month and the mayor certainly delivered in his state of the city address. If you haven't heard yet, MetroNet is a fiber optic internet provider that is building out its network in the city and expects to start phasing in service neighborhood by neighborhood as early as this fall. For those who are weary of using Cox as their internet provider, this is a significant shift in the market. In my opinion, options are always nice. So, I'm glad we'll have another seemingly good option here very soon. (T-Mobile also recently started offering high-speed home internet in Norfolk through its cellular network.)

This month we welcome several political candidates to our monthly meeting. The Democratic primary on June 8th will include 3 candidates each running for the 79th district state delegate seat and the Norfolk

commonwealth's (district) attorney. This is a great opportunity to hear what each candidate has to say and ask some poignant questions. All candidates want to move this city forward and I know I'm personally interested to hear how each of them plans to do so. I hope you can all join us to hear their plans as well.

Finally, like many people, I am excited (relieved?) to see life starting to get back to "normal"... whatever that was, if we can remember it. Myself and my wife have both been vaccinated for COVID-19 and I'm sure many of you have as well. If you have not, I encourage you to do so. As a nation, state, and city we appear to finally be winning this long battle and there's no better time to jump on the bandwagon than right now when we've got coronavirus on the run!

A return to normalcy also means we should be able to start meeting again in person in September after we take our usual summer break. Our board is discussing how we might manage a hybrid meeting with both in-person and call-in attendees. We're also discussing how we might safely hold our annual picnic. Stay tuned for more details to come in next month's newsletter. Until then, stay safe, stay well, and say hello to your neighbors!

Scott Guirlinger

City of Norfolk Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment

The City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Department (RPOS) would like your input to help determine parks, greenways, open space, and recreation priorities for our community. The nearby Fitness & Wellness Center is managed by this department, so feedback from our local neighborhoods is greatly valued. This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Please take time to give them your thoughts.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorfolkRPOS?fbclid=IwAR2Py9rdgXxhpmTwLIIFj8PfAPdnP7jwu9ykPszIAaqjMTdo-5oxqVJir94>

Note: This survey will close at the end of this week, so time is of the essence if you'd like to participate!

From the Office of Elections

The deadline to register to vote for the June 8, 2021 Primary Election is Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for in-person and 11:59 p.m. online. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the June 8, 2021 Primary Election is 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 28th.

Due to USPS mail service delivery, we recommend requesting an absentee ballot by mail earlier to allow adequate time for delivery and return.

Witness signature for absentee ballots by mail is waived for the June Primary Elections by Court Order.

Absentee voting for the June 8, 2021 Primary Elections will be held at Norfolk City Hall, 1st Floor, beginning April 23rd. Voters may park in the Union Street parking lot behind City Hall. Please use the Union Street entrance (front of the building). Absentee voting will be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition to our regular office hours, we will be open on Saturday, May 29th, and June 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for in person absentee voting. The deadline to vote absentee in person is 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5th.

Absentee ballots may be returned via USPS, approved delivery courier service (such as DHL, Federal Express, or UPS), or in person. A ballot drop box is available during absentee voting hours and dates listed above at 810 Union Street, First Floor, City Hall. In addition, drop boxes will be available at all polling places on Election Day, June 8th, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKS	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1,304.01	\$50.00	\$860.41
Funds received	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Funds deposited	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$1,264.01	\$70.00	\$860.41
Total balance	\$2,194.42		

Civic League Board of Directors

Contact Information

www.wardscorner.com/board-of-directors

Membership Meeting Minutes April 19th, 2021

(Virtual meeting recording available on request)

The meeting was opened by President Scott Guirlinger.

Officer Toth provided an update on criminal activity in the Wards Corner area.

- He will provide an update at the next meeting on the homeless man at the corner of Little Creek Road and Granby Street.
- Increased auto larceny with broken windows due to leaving valuables in cars.

Chris Burge, Board Member, Friends of the Norfolk Public Library provided information and answered questions.

- She provided information on some of their programs.
 - Provided funds to upgrade the studio space at Pretlow Library.
 - Little Free Libraries
 - Summer reading Program open for adults and children.
 - Book review contest.
- She requested help from the community to keep pressure on city leaders to open libraries to full service.
- Open library yard signs available.

Rob Bloxom, Delegate, 100th District provided updates and answered questions.

- Redistricting coming up this Fall effective 2022.
- Session closed.
 - Budget
 - Plenty of money from revenue.
 - Stimulus package boosted spending.
 - Legislation
 - Legalized small quantities of marijuana.
 - Approved investigation of the Office of the Inspector General.

Vice Mayor Martin Thomas added city updates and answered questions.

- Mayor Kenny Alexander to give State of the City address Thursday, April 20.
- Council gave city manager approval to begin the hiring process for the libraries.
- \$ 4 million approved to begin assessment of rebuilding and/or renovating NFWC.
- DePaul Hospital to continue with out-patient procedures.
- Council has budgeted funds for more EMT positions due to longer distance to hospitals with closing of DePaul emergency department.

School Board Representative Adale Martin (Ward 1) added school updates and answered questions.

- Phase Three, April 26, 2021-All high school students begin hybrid schedule.
- Virtual Scholar Academy is available for students who want to remain virtual.
- Robust Summer programs available to all students, registration is open.
- NPS Redesign for the Future- consulting firm, Cooperative Strategies is leading the effort for the long- term master plan.
 - Rebuild NPS 2030- long term master plan to rebuild and renovate Norfolk's aging schools and facilities.
 - npsk12.com/Page/14999
- School Board has contracted Governance Training.

The next WCCL event is on May 15, at 9:00am.

Adopt -a-Spot Cleanup at NFWC property.


The next WCCL meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17 at 6:30pm. It will be virtual.


President Scott Gurlinger then closed the meeting.

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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Post Office Box 27
14116 Lankford Highway
Mappsville, Virginia 23407

District Phone: 757/824-3456
Capitol Phone: 804/698-1000
www.robloxom100.com
delrbloxom@house.virginia.gov

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