

FEBRUARY 2024

# WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Serving: Academy Terrace, Colony Point, Hariton Gardens, Merridale, Pinehurst, Restmere, Rose Gardens, Sussex of Norfolk, Virginia Gardens, Wards Corner, and Wexford Terrace



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah February, the month of love. Or at least the month with a day formally dedicated to love. I wish you all a belated Happy Valentine's Day of course, but also want to highlight all of the ways that residents near and far show their neighborly love. There are those who show their love by routinely picking up trash from the streets, sidewalks, and other common areas around our neighborhood without anyone asking them to do so (we see you!). There are those who show their love by helping out a neighbor in need, whether that be watching a child, loaning a tool, giving a ride, or any one of a host of love-filled actions, small and large. And there are those who love our neighborhood and our city and the residents of both so much that they are willing to give of their own time and talents to help us all. Our elected officials and first responders certainly top this list, along with many other city staff that love Wards Corner just as much as we do.

Still, there are places where we aren't feeling the love as much as we'd like. The redesign process for the Fitness and Wellness Center is proceeding slower than originally communicated. The Wards Corner Task Force has asked city staff what can be done to expedite the process (stay tuned). Our sewers are under scheduled maintenance that can't seem to happen fast enough to prevent emergency rerouting and road closures.

And then there is tunnel traffic, perhaps the bane of our existence for many in our neighborhood and region. This month we will hear directly from Ryan Banas, the project director for the HRBT expansion. Progress seems to have been very slow so far, but I'm told big things will start happening this year. Come hear all about this major project, how far it's come, and how far it still has to go. Certainly a lot has changed since we last had a presentation at our civic league in 2019!

I apologize that I was not able to attend the January meeting and elections. I got my dates mixed up and double booked with a scout ski trip. I look forward to seeing many of you again here soon for our February meeting. The groundhog said that warmer weather is coming soon, so hopefully I'll see you out around the neighborhood as well.

Scott

## Important Dates:

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING


Monday  
February 26, 2024  
**6:30 p.m.**  
Norfolk Fitness &  
Wellness center

## JOIN THE CIVIC LEAGUE!

Not sure what we are or what we do? See our Membership page to find out.

Dues are \$10 per household per year **PAY ONLINE NOW THROUGH PAYPAL**





## JANUARY 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was opened by 2nd Vice President, Chris DePalma

- Steven Toth, Community Resource Officer, NPD, provided an update on criminal activity in the Wards Corner area and answered questions
- Charles McPhillips, Founder and Chairman, Monique Turner Lopez, Executive Director, and Mel Price, Architect, for Next Step to Success, presented information, plans, and answered questions for the Next Step to Success campus at the former DePaul Hospital.  
[www.nextsteptosuccess.org](http://www.nextsteptosuccess.org) Currently located at Blessed Sacrament Church since 2021.
  - Workshops and lessons include etiquette, homework assistance, career, and family values.
  - Continued success with the program has created need for more space.
  - An after-school and summer camp program for teens.
  - Provide free transportation and meals for participants.
  - There will be a gymnasium, auditorium/cafeteria, amphitheater, sports fields, and administration building.
  - Plan to keep original DePaul Chapel.
  - Campus design cues from historic St. Vincent DePaul.
  - Each learning house is designed to feel like home, set back from the roads and gardens.
  - All existing trees to remain on property.

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Vice President Erin Ward reviewed Civic League Community development committees and provided information on new academic scholarship implementation.

### Board Elections

- President-Scott Guirlinger
- 1 st VP-Erin Ward
- 2 nd VP-Chris DePalma
- Secretary-Brenda Grigg
- Newsletter Editor-Carly West Gelles
- Treasurer-Grea Sellers
- At Large-Zach Schwarting, Daniel Graves, Liz Lockwood

The next WCCL Membership meeting is on Monday, February 26, 2023 @6:30 at the NFWC.

# GREATER WARDS CORNER TASK FORCE MEETING

February 8, 2024, Notes by Karen Hayes of Suburban Acres Civic League

The meeting was hosted by Norfolk Vice Mayor Martin Thomas, City Council Member Andria McClellan, and City staff.

**Norfolk 2050** – The Norfolk Department of City Planning has started the process of developing a new Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will create a framework for how Norfolk will grow and evolve over the next 25 years. Public input is important to this process and will be through a series of meetings and on-line surveys. Citizens can sign up for updates and the current survey at [www.nfk2050.com](http://www.nfk2050.com).

**Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center** – Department of Parks and Recreation says the City has selected three design/build companies, who are developing their final concept plans, due in March. The City will award the contract to one of these firms, likely in Summer 2024. The City will solicit more public input for the final design in 2024. Construction is now anticipated to start in Spring 2025. The task force asked why this process is taking so long with the dates slipping at every meeting of the task force. Director of Public Works, Richard Broad, said there is quite a bit of due diligence required of the City to ensure their contractor selection process would stand up to court challenge. The move of Primeplus Senior Center to the Titustown Recreation Center is under design, but getting the project on budget is a challenge. Bob Batchner, director of Primeplus, said he is concerned that the new facility will not have the space the organization needs for its expanding programs.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY**  
**757-823-4433**

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE  
OFFICER**  
**757-651-4577**

**POLICE RED SECTOR**  
**757-823-4450**

**NORFOLK CARES CALL  
CENTER FOR: SEWER  
BACKUP, CODE  
ENFORCEMENT, WASTE  
MANAGEMENT-  
EVERYTHING ELSE!**  
**757-664-6510**

**POLICE EMERGENCY**  
**911**

## GET SOCIAL!



Follow us on  
Facebook and stay  
connected!

Search for **Wards  
Corner Civic League**

# GREATER WARDS CORNER TASK FORCE MEETING (CONTINUED)

**Economic Development Updates** – The Midtown Shopping Center has been sold to a local developer. The new owner is talking with the City and Norfolk Southern and is considering retail uses such as food and beverage or mixed use that would include apartments.

The lease on the former Farm Fresh at Wards Corner expired in December 2023. The real estate firm that owns the property may sell it, but is also considering another grocery store, mixed use, or residential development. The redevelopment of the old Kroger/Workforce property is still moving forward with a possible redesign of the proposal that was previously submitted to the City. The former DePaul Hospital has been sold to the non-profit Next Steps to Success, who plan to redevelop the site as a youth outreach and development program. Rezoning for this use will be required; surrounding civic leagues are in support. Here is the link to the organization for more information: <https://nextstptosuccess.org/>.

**Wards Corner Fencing** – The City has reinstalled the sections of black fence that were removed by mistake, but they do not plan to reinstall the sections in the narrow medians along the Granby Street turn lanes. Public Works Director Richard Broad says the costs of fixing the fencing do not justify the use of taxpayer funds since the original intent of the fencing was for beautification of Wards Corner, not safety. The City is also reassessing the fencing in downtown in areas that are routinely hit. The costs include \$75 per linear foot for the fence, \$2800 for two days of traffic control, and \$75 an hour for the Norfolk Police Department. Mr. Broad said that often the fencing is damaged again as soon as they repair it.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND USEFUL LINKS:

REPORT TRAINS  
BLOCKING THE RAILWAY  
USING THE [THIS LINK](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON THE PROCESS VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.WARDSCORNER.COM](http://WWW.WARDSCORNER.COM)

HAVE COFFEE WITH THE  
CHIEF OF POLICE, MARK  
TALBOTT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY  
21ST AT THE SLOVER  
LIBRARY. DOORS OPEN  
AT 7:45 AM, PROGRAM  
BEGINS AT 8:15 AM

CHECK OUT OUR  
WEBSITE FOR  
INFORMATION  
REGARDING THE LONG-  
TERM TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON  
I-64 FOR THE NORFOLK  
EXPRESS LANES PROJECT



# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are so excited to launch our new committees to help engage more with our Wards Corner neighbors and friends. **We are looking for a few more volunteers** to help with each committee. If you are interested please email

[erin@hrvahomes.com](mailto:erin@hrvahomes.com).

### **Welcome and Membership Committee-**

Welcome new Wards Corner residents and encourage them to participate in the Civic League by sharing our welcome letter full of great information.

### **Adopt-A-Spot-**

Join our quarterly volunteers in cleaning up our Adopt-A-Spot location at the NFWC

### **Events-**

Help coordinate, plan, and execute fun and engaging events throughout the year for our Wards Corner friends and neighbors.

### **Scholarship-**

Assist in coordination, communication, and delivery of Scholarship opportunities to local Wards Corner High School Seniors.

### **Thank You Neighbor Award-**

Help solicit nominations and recognize Wards Corner neighbors that go above and beyond to make our area a better place for all.

### **Sponsorship/Advertising-**

Assist in helping find local businesses who may want to advertise in our local newsletter and or sponsor upcoming events or our scholarship program

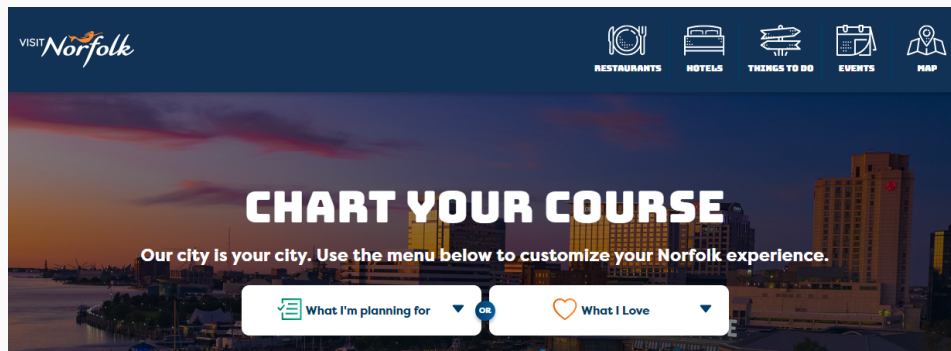


# LOCAL NORFOLK LINKS TO SAVE

- [City of Norfolk Arts & Culture Events Calendar](#)
- [Festevents](#)
- [NFK Currents](#) (weekly newsletter about local happenings)
- [Visit Norfolk Website](#)
- [My Active Child](#) (family-friendly info about activities & events)
- [Macaroni Kid Hampton Roads](#)
- [Virginia Zoo](#)
- [Norfolk Botanical Garden](#)
- [Chrysler Museum of Art](#)
- [Hermitage Museum and Gardens](#)
- [Norfolk Tour Company](#)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NORFOLK?

Have you ever explored [VisitNorfolk](#) to find events, new restaurants, celebration and more?



# CIVIC LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONTACT  
INFORMATION  
CLICK HERE

DOWNLOAD THE  
MYNORFOLK  
APP



**MyNorfolk**  
City of Norfolk, Virginia

OPEN



Download it from  
**GOOGLE PLAY**



Download it from  
**APP STORE**



Find a great list of classes and events held by the Norfolk Parks & Rec department [Click Here](#)





**PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND EXECUTION OF  
A/V NEEDS FOR HOME AND OFFICE**





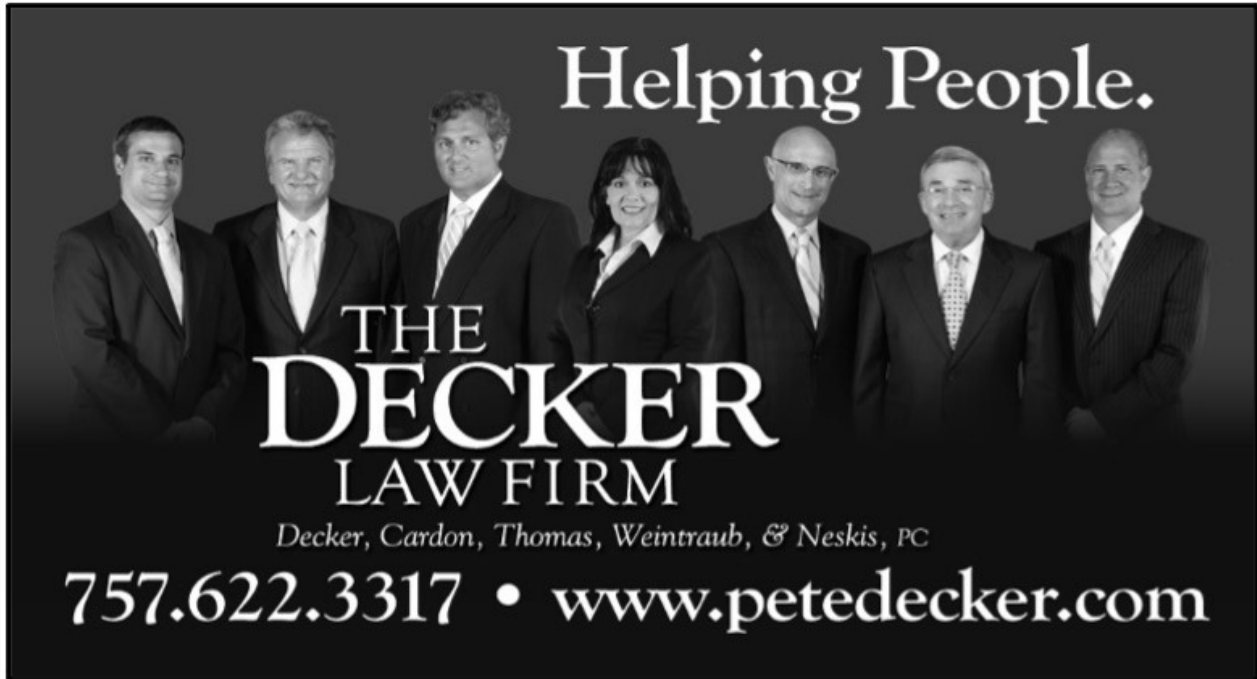
- TV installation
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To schedule your consultation or project contact 757-828-7006 or [info@ftech.pro](mailto:info@ftech.pro)  
Visit [www.FMTech.pro](http://www.FMTech.pro) for additional details.

## TREASURER REPORT

2/12/2024		ACCOUNT	
	CHECKING	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1,608.76	\$20.00	\$975.73
Funds received	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27.48
Funds deposited	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$242.23	\$20.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$1,366.53	\$0.00	\$1,003.21
Total balance		\$2,369.74	

Want your business to reach your neighbors? **Place an ad** in this local newsletter for **as little as \$12.50!**



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KELLERWILLIAMS





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## Eggleston's Farmers Market and Garden Center



The one stop shop for all your  
Seasonal Produce & Gardening Needs!

Eggleston's garden center has expanded to include a fixed indoor farmers market. Our year round farmers market will carry seasonal produce and other locally produced products. We also carry locally grown plants that thrive in Hampton Roads. Garden tools, soil, natural and organic chemicals, and much more to make your garden spring to life!

**Open: Tues. - Sat. 9-7  
and Sun. 9-5**

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