

# 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

Happy Valentine's Day! (A belated one.) This is typically where I write each year about the love that I see around our neighborhood from all of our caring neighbors and city staff. And I do still want to thank you all for sharing the love! But there are also some pressing matters that I need to reserve this space for...

Demolition time has nearly come! By the end of this month, scheduled programs at the Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center (NFWC) will conclude. And I am told that building access will stop a few weeks later, around mid-March. As of my writing of this message, it is not yet clear if we will be able to host our March meeting in the NFWC conference room or not. Our board is working to secure a nearby meeting space for the next two years while NFWC reconstruction is taking place.

The board has also discussed shifting to meetings every other month, at least during this reconstruction phase. And doing social events in the alternate months. This model has worked well for some other civic leagues and we believe it's worth giving a try. We believe it will help reach some more neighbors and be more inclusive overall. We are working now to plan the rest of our calendar year with meetings and social events. Stay tuned for more information coming very soon!

Also, after tabling the vote on bylaw changes at our January meeting, the board has discussed the concerns and decided to make a motion to adopt the proposed changes as previously presented (no new changes). To recap the proposed changes again, they will give the board the authority to offer a lifetime dues payment in addition to or in lieu of annual dues payments, and set term limits on officer positions (no one person can serve in the same position for more than 3 consecutive years). I hope you all can join us for this important vote. If you have any questions ahead of time, please feel free to reach out to any board member. (A reminder that per official rules, you need to be a registered member of the civic league to vote.)

The groundhog said that winter will be longer this year and it appears he may have been correct. Stay warm and I'll see you out around the neighborhood soon!

Scott

## Important Dates

**Membership Meeting**  
Monday, February 24, 2025  
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 through PayPal.](#)





## Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2025

The meeting was opened by President Scott Guirlinger.

Office Toth, Community Resource Officer NPD, provided an update on criminal activity in the Wards Corner area and answered questions.

Martin Thomas, Vice Mayor, City of Norfolk presented updates and answered questions.

- Former Rite-Aid property owner in process of deciding what to do with the property.
- Next Steps for Success Is conducting a study for the property next to Granby Street for the possible construction of townhomes and carriage houses.
- Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center, April 2027 scheduled completion date.
- The former Kroger building has no confirmed tenant.
- The former Farm Fresh building, no decisions on use of property.

C.W. Gaskill, Jr., Civil Engineer III, Stormwater Management Division provided updates on the North Shore playground and answered questions.

- All in house design and contracting on the project.
- Landscaping replaced trees and grass.
- Project is complete.

L. Keith B. Darrow, P.E., City Transportation Engineer, presented projects and answered questions.

- New traffic patterns at Terminal Blvd. and Diven.
- \$5 million project to replace streetlights with high pressure sodium to LED.
- Conducting pilot programs for less intrusion of light.
- Federal grant to improve safety at the corner of Hampton Blvd. and Little Creek Rd. Finances will be available next year.
- Bike lanes construction scheduled to begin Spring of 2025. 10–12-month completion.
- Buffer Lanes- curb stops and flex posts to be installed.
- The speed limit on Granby Street will be reduced to 30 mph
- RRFV lights will be installed at 5 locations along Granby Street.

Proposed bylaw changes tabled until February 24, 2025, membership meeting.

### Board Elections

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Wards Corner Civic League Board for 2025.

Scott Guirlinger: President  
Erin Ward: 1st Vice President  
Chris DePalma: 2nd Vice President  
Erica Howell: Newsletter Editor  
Grea Sellers: Treasurer  
Liz Lockwood: At-large  
Dan Graves: At-large  
Zach Schwarting; At-large  
Brenda Grigg: Secretary

Upcoming events: WCCL Membership Meeting Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:30PM NFWC Conference Room.

President Scott Guirlinger then closed the meeting.



## Meeting Agenda

### Monday, February 24, 6:30 p.m.

- Introduction and Welcome
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reports
  - Steven Toth, Community Resource Officer, NPD
- Featured Speakers
  - Sgt. Gauthier, FLOCK Cameras, NPD
  - John Childers, Owner, Riverview Theatre
- Updates
  - Martin Thomas, Vice Mayor, City of Norfolk
  - Sarah DiCalogero, Superward 6 Board Representative, Norfolk Public Schools
- Announcements & Other Business
  - Vote on proposed bylaw changes
  - Committee reports
  - Plan for meeting during NFWC construction
- Adjournment

#### Upcoming events

- Monday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.: Membership meeting @ TBD

## 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

Join us on Facebook and stay  
connected! Search for "Wards  
Corner Civic League"



## Bylaw Updates

From Article VII - Finance: The annual dues and any lifetime dues of the league shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be per household, payable to the Wards Corner Civic League.

From Article IX - Elections and Voting: It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to recommend candidates at the January ~~December~~ meeting, a slate consisting of at least one nominee for each elective office. Nomination may be made from the floor at this time. The election of officers shall take place at the January ~~December~~ meeting. The installation of officers shall take place no later than the February at the January meeting. Officers shall be eligible to succeed themselves for a maximum of three terms in the same office.

## Treasurer Report

2/13/2025	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKING	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$2,310.53	\$40.00	\$521.83
Funds received	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$119.08
Funds deposited	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$2,370.53	\$0.00	\$640.91
Total balance	\$3,011.44		

## Civic League Board of Directors

[Click here](#) for contact information

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# Volunteer Opportunities

*Be the Change in Your Neighborhood!*

Change begins at home, and there's no better place to make a difference than in your own community. By getting involved locally, you help shape the future of Wards Corner, strengthen connections with your neighbors, and create a place we're all proud to call home. Join us in building a better, more vibrant neighborhood—one step at a time. We're looking for passionate volunteers to help lead the way in our new committees. Your voice matters, and together, we can make Wards Corner thrive!

## **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.

If you are interested please email [erin@hrvahomes.com](mailto:erin@hrvahomes.com).



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



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