

# 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

Thank you to everyone who came to our fall festival and bingo games at North Shore Playground at the end of October. The costumes were great and we hope everyone enjoyed their prizes. Special thanks to our vice president Erin Ward for coordinating the event.

Vice president Chris Depalma and I attended the groundbreaking ceremony on October 10th for the new wellness center. It's exciting to see the pool already under construction with much more to follow. The estimated completion date currently remains Fall 2027.

Daylight savings is now gone and the sun is setting much earlier, meaning pedestrian safety at night time needs increased attention, especially around busy streets. To help ensure this in our neighborhood, I recently did a "walkabout" and identified 60 street lights and lamp lights that need replacement or repair in our Wards Corner area. These have been submitted to Dominion Energy, and our superward councilman Jeremy McGree is placing pressure on Dominion to fix the lights in a timely manner. If you see any street lights out on your street (or other streets), please note the pole number and submit a request for repair through Dominion's website.

One informational update since our September meeting: many of you have noticed the demolition of the old Farm Fresh (Giant Open Air) building has taken place. I have been told that the property owner is clearing the land, but that there are no plans yet for redevelopment or sale of that site. Time will tell.

An ongoing point of discussion in our civic league and those surrounding us is the concerning behavior of certain unhoused individuals in the business district. Being homeless, standing or sitting in the median, and asking for money are not against the law. Impeding traffic on the street or sidewalk, verbally harassing passersby, and urinating in public are criminal offenses. Multiple city officials and police officers have conveyed that they are doing what they can to keep Wards Corner clean and safe.

## Important Note

While the Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center is under reconstruction, we will meet every other month (January, March, May, September, November) and have socials in the alternating months (February, April, June, October, December).

## 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.](#)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

They have offered support services to the individuals in question. Please keep this in mind when you encounter them. We should treat all people in Wards Corner with respect, both residents and visitors. And we also play a role in keeping our fellow residents and visitors safe. Please report unsafe and criminal behavior to the police, who are trained to respond appropriately to these types of situations.

Looking ahead to next year, **our civic league is seeking interested residents to join our board.** We value diversity of opinions and would appreciate your fresh perspective if you would please consider joining us. If you have any questions, I am always happy to answer them. Feel free to reach out to me at [scott.guirlinger@gmail.com](mailto:scott.guirlinger@gmail.com) or 757-489-3938.

As always, if you have any 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. I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting this month and around the neighborhood!

Scott Guirlinger

## Treasurer Report

11/3/2025	ACCOUNT		
	CHECKING	CASH	PAYPAL
Beginning balance	\$1,973.33	\$0.00	\$769.15
Funds received	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$162.59
Funds deposited	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Funds dispersed	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending balance	\$1,973.33	\$0.00	\$931.74
Total balance	\$2,905.07		

## Civic League Board of Directors

[Click here](#) for contact information

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# Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2025

## Opening

The meeting was opened by President Scott Guirlinger.

## Updates and Presentations

### Community Safety

Office Toth, Community Resource Officer NPD, provided an update on criminal activity in the Wards Corner area for the past 30 days and answered questions.

- Harris Teeter and Walgreens theft addressed.
- Increased arrests and police presence.
- Efforts are ongoing to address crime issues, including community involvement and increased police monitoring.

### Norfolk Public Schools Updates

Katie Whitestone, NPS Teacher, Facilities Planning Advisory Committee provided information on school consolidation and facility planning and answered questions.

- Decline in student enrollment over the past 13 years.
- Initiative was spurred by the City Council's directive.
- The committee reviewed options for school closures and consolidations based on building age, capacity, student distribution, and growth potential.
- Granby Elementary was identified as the oldest and most deteriorated.
- Community engagement meetings were held to gather feedback.
- The school board is set to vote on their final proposal soon.
- The long-term plan includes consolidating elementary schools, then middle and high schools.

Adale Martin, Ward 1 Representative, Norfolk Public Schools provided updates and answered questions.

- Current school closure and consolidations plan includes a rebuild for Jaycox Elementary
- Superintendent search update:
  - The district is using the Virginia School Board Association to manage the search.
  - The selection process is underway, with a deadline to name a new superintendent by December 14.
  - New contract is expected to begin July 1, with an interim beforehand.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs remains robust. The district continues to work with industry representatives to ensure relevant training and job opportunities for students.

### City Council Updates

Jeremy D. McGee, Superward 6 Councilman, City of Norfolk provided updates on city initiatives and answered questions.

- Street lighting project:
  - Dominion Energy has been slow to respond to repair requests.
  - The contract with Dominion is up for renegotiation, with the city seeking increased penalties for delayed repairs and later response times.



## Meeting Minutes continued

- A replacement project to upgrade 30,000 lights is currently being paced due to the brightness of new fixtures.
- City is collaborating with the Citizens for Responsible Lighting group to ensure new fixtures balance safety, environmental concerns and neighborhood impact.
- The city is adding new consultants to guide decisions.
- Residents are encouraged to continue reporting outages, and community members are helping track.
- Homelessness has increased in the city.

Martin Thomas, Vice Mayor & Ward 1 Councilman, City of Norfolk presented updates and answered questions.

- Confirmed Target is coming.

### Upcoming Events

- WCCL Membership Meeting, Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:30PM  
Titustown Rec. Center

### Closing

President Scott Guirlinger adjourned 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 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"





## Meeting Agenda, November 17, 2025

- 6:30 Introduction and Welcome  
Pledge of Allegiance
- 6:35 Reports
- Steven Toth, Community Resource Officer, NPD
- 6:45 Featured Speakers
- Bradford Smith, Auditor, City of Norfolk
  - Liz Paiste, Citizens for Responsible Lighting
- 7:15 Updates
- Martin Thomas, Vice Mayor, City of Norfolk
  - Adale Martin, Ward 1 Representative, Norfolk Public Schools
- 7:35 Announcements & Other Business
- Street light outage reporting
  - Committee reports
- 7:45 Adjournment

## Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting  
Monday, November 17  
6:30 p.m.  
Titustown Rec Center

Adopt-A-Spot Cleanup  
Saturday, December 6  
9:00 a.m.  
Lankford Rd (behind Rite-Aid)



# 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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900 Granby St.  
Ste 112  
Norfolk, VA 23510