



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 2016 Web site www.wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

Speakers

Norfolk Health Department
Zika Virus, Rabies

Community Resource Officer
William Old

Monday

May 16, 2016
6:45 – 8:30 PM

Presidents Message

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

As you read this message we will have elected a new Mayor, a Superward 6 Councilman, and a member to the Norfolk School Board for our area. Perhaps your candidate/s won, perhaps they didn't. Nonetheless we are all going to have to recognize that they are our elected officials and while we may or may not agree with them they will be with us for four more years (at least) and we will and should make our voices heard to our elected officials if we do not agree with the policies that are being proposed. This is our right and obligation as a free and democratic society. To sit idly by in apathy as decisions are made without our input or voice oftentimes (or should I say many times) allows poor policies to be put in place that don't represent the best interest of the majority of us. It allows the few and vocal to get what they want. Exercise your free speech right and speak up to your congressmen or elected official/s if you

disagree with them. Also let them know if you do agree with them. It works both ways. I know I like to be vocal (sometimes to the point of being borderline obnoxious I suppose) if what I see happening isn't right or makes no sense. I challenge you to do the same – but civilly.

Should Andy Protogyrou become our next Mayor, we will have a vacancy for Ward 1 on city council. Because of a ruling in our city charter/constitution, a sitting councilman running for another office (i.e., Mayor) must give up their seat whether they win or lose their election. This means that Andy cannot finish out his term of two more years on city council. Interestingly that does not apply to other candidates running for office (i.e., Sheriff and Senator) who can keep their seats if they lose their election. While we may agree that this is unfair and foolish, nonetheless we must live with it. Therefore **it is vitally important and imperative that we get behind Martin Thomas Jr. as he enters the race for councilman for Ward 1.** Please sign the petition for Martin for city council, pledge to help his campaign and let us vote him into office when that election is held sometime after July 1, 2016.

In other news, the Board of Directors, after several months of review and discussion, has now approved a new set of constitution and bylaws for our civic league. These can be viewed on our website at www.wardscorner.com so that you may become informed of what they say before we vote on them at our June meeting. They will also be introduced to the membership at the May meeting. Your feedback is encouraged and welcomed. We will consider all feedback and respond to them at the discussion phase of this process prior to voting in June.

The Board of Directors has also made a decision regarding the printing of our newsletter after considering several options. Our concern has been with the increasing cost of our newsletter and the sustainability of printing it at the current level and frequency. Thanks to Ray Duron who spoke

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

WCCL met on Monday April 18, 2016 at 6:45 PM in the NFW center. President Jim English welcomed guests and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance : 39

Community Police Officer Old presented his report. His monthly statistics included a burglary in the 500 block of Timothy; 3 larcenies in these blocks- 500 W. Little Creek Road, 3600 Newport, 500 Birmingham; stolen car – 7700 Restmere; robbery – Walgreen’s. Neighbors reported Granby high schoolers running into the Wellness Center; police were called and Center staff indicated these kids have been spending time behind the back of the building. Another person reported a barking dog on W. Little Creek.

Our program continued with the School Board candidates for Superward 6 speaking. Dr. Noelle Gabriel is a product of Norfolk public schools and also attended ODU, EVMS, and completed her Pediatric ER residency at CHKD. She has been a School Board member for the last several years, and wants to increase the progress being made with SOLs in addition to building relationships and transparency between the Board and the public. She feels that an elected Board will be able to request more support from City Council for the schools.

Mr. Carter Smith received his MBA from the University of Virginia, and is a local business owner. His platform includes providing more support for teachers, increasing Board accountability, increasing choices for non-gifted students, and developing more vocational training. He feels that an elected Board allows the citizens to take ownership.

Following the speakers, President English presented information regarding the cost of our current newsletter, the steps the Board has taken to attempt to reduce the cost, and an opportunity that has been presented to change printers and cut costs. It will be discussed further by the Board.

Martin Thomas, Jr. discussed several items from the Planning Commission. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Ross, Reporting for Secretary Joan Griffey who was out of town.

with our printer recently, the printer lowered his price to a more manageable level rather than lose our business. Therefore the Board of Directors has agreed to keep our current printer for now as long as we don't go in the red each month printing the newsletter. By doing this we will not increase the dues at this point, endeavor to maintain 10 ads per month and gradually increase the advertising fee as current ads expire or we pick up new advertisers. This way we still have a sustainable newsletter based on fees from ads and membership dues received while still having funds for such events as our picnic. Hopefully this can be maintained.

Finally summer is almost here and with all of the good things that happen in the summertime we must also realize it is a time for mosquitoes and mosquito bites. Mosquito bites are becoming more of a concern because of the potential of spreading the deadly Zika virus. In addition, summertime usually sees an increase of animal bites and the potential of contracting rabies through the bite of an infected wild animal or an unvaccinated domestic pet. Therefore for our May meeting we will have a representative from the Norfolk Health Department talking about these issues. You won't want to miss this presentation.

I hope to see you at our next meeting of our Civic League on the 16th of May at 6:45PM at the Wellness Center.

Sincerely,



WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2nd VP/Newslet- ter distribution	Sue Classick	489-2315
Secretary	Joan Griffey	440-9508
Treasurer	Ray Duron	423-4337
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Ross	739-3600
Member-at-large	Scott Guirlinger	489-3938

Web Master – Martin Thomas, Jr. (618-6468)

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Ross

Bookworms@WHRO.net

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	252-207-4361
Police Red Sector	664-6914
Code Enforcement	664-6532
Environmental Health	683-2712
Sewer Backup	823-1000
Waste Management (Call here for large pickups)	441-5813
Norfolk Cares Call Center (Don't know what office to call on the problem?)	664-6510
Police Emergency	911

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2,024.00
+ funds received	\$115.00		
- funds disbursed		\$148.40	
Ending Balance			\$1,990.60

Membership

Please help to support your Civic League by paying your 2016 dues.

Our dues amount is a bargain-\$5.00/person. Our current membership is 81 households.

Send your check with your name, address, phone and e-mail to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505 or bring it to a meeting.

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Neighborhood Picnic
 Saturday, June 25th, 12-3pm
 North Shore Playground**

Dogs, burgers, condiments, plates and utensils provided. Bring a dish to share, chairs/blanket to sit on, games to play.

HELPERS STILL NEEDED/HIGH SCHOOLERS TO HELP ORGANIZE CHILDREN'S GAMES

Please contact Scott Guirlinger at scott.guirlinger@gmail.com or 489-3938 to volunteer

REMINDER

Parking on the lawn has become "the norm" in some areas of our civic league. Just look at the proliferation of muddy front yards along W. Little Creek Road. Our City is now taking action against home owners and those who rent as these addresses shun the law. City Codes Enforcement states "NO VEHICLE PARKING ON THE LAWN". Concerned home owners in our area have asked Codes to enforce this violation. There is a \$30 fine and a follow-up in Court for these violations. An unkempt lawn begins and perpetuates blight and depreciation of our neighborhoods. Please be considerate and invest in our community by parking only on paved areas.

Thank you

NEIGHBORHOOD TRIVIA

Did you know that our green neighborhood signs - 42 X 47 inches with the name of the neighborhood topped by the word "Norfolk" and the city's mermaid logo, all in reflective white lettering - are now nine years old?? These markers uniformly ID our neighborhoods. Our Civic League funds added our hanging website info later.