

SUBURBAN ACRES CIVIC LEAGUE NEWS



July 1, 2008

Volume 5 Issue 4

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Join Us For Suburban Acres 3rd Annual Fourth of July Parade

Suburban Acres will celebrate July 4th by donning red, white and blue and parading through the streets. Please join us as we continue this neighborhood tradition. We'll assemble at Suburban Park Elementary on Galveston at 9:30 a.m. in preparation for a 10:00 a.m. parade. The short parade route leaves the school heading up Carl, turning left onto Brickby, left again onto Galveston, and ending at the school where refreshments will be served.

The next Suburban Acres Civic League Meeting will be September 8, 2008

Time:
7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Place:
Suburban Acres Elementary School

Bring Your Neighbor and Join Us For Refreshments and Fellowship

Happy 232nd Birthday, America!

On July 4th, Americans will celebrate Independence Day, commemorating the adoption of our Declaration of Independence in 1776 – *freedom from British rule*. Barbecues, pool parties, baseball, red, white and blue bunting adorning our porches, flags flying in the warm breeze, and fireworks; these are the icons of the American life-style we cherish.

Freedom; it's beautiful and it's ours. On this national holiday, the patriot emerges in us all as we reflect on the greatness of this land and its people. All across the country, communities of proud Americans are abound, much like Suburban Acres, where Old Glory flies proudly over neighbors sharing laughter and children playing happily. Americans enjoy life, as we should. To the men and women who have protected our flag, defending this freedom that has provided for a safe and prosperous homeland, Thank You!

Let us never forget the price that is paid for our freedom, and let us remember our responsibilities as citizens of this great land. And then, let us celebrate our good fortune of being American!

(Continued on page 4)

Suburban Acres Civic League Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reported that we now have a total of 58 members. For the period March, April and May 2008 we received \$618 in income and had expenses of \$308.99. The bank balance as of the June meeting is \$1,241.35.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM: Officer Sandy Parker gave a brief overview and distributed handouts regarding the implementation of a Neighborhood Watch Program. When we are ready to begin the program, Officer Parker will again meet with us.

PACE REPORT: Officer Bev Hubbard encouraged everyone to participate in the next Citizen's Academy that will begin on August 28th. Applications were provided.

Crime statistics for May 2008: 500 block of Suburban Parkway—paintball vandalism; 100 block of Fife Street—residential burglary; 7400 block of E. Kenmore—residential burglary and stolen auto.

NORFOLK COLLEGIATE: Mr. Will King briefed the civic league on the school's plans for a new fine arts center. Construction will begin in early 2010 and should be completed by early 2011. The center will have a 450 seat theater as well as additional classrooms. Drawings were presented for review.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Yard of the Month Program – beginning in July, our newly formed committee will be awarding a Yard of the Month "Mermaid" to one of our many beautiful yards. Be on the look out for your neighbors "Ruby and Rita" who head this committee. The mermaid was made by our own Jack Sanderlin of Suburban Parkway.

4th of July Parade – This year's parade is sure to be a huge success. We have extended our route to include Carl and Brickby Streets. Tim distributed a map showing the parade route. We will return to the school for light refreshments. We will meet at Suburban Park Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m.

THOLE STREET MEDIAN UPDATE: Tim Fox reported that the bid has been selected and should be approved by the end of this month. Work is slated to begin in August.

MEDIAN MERMAID PROPOSAL: We are considering different versions and locations for a neighborhood mermaid. The fiberglass-type can range in price from \$2,000 to \$4,000. We will need to consider various fundraising projects for this initiative.

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING FREQUENCY AND LOCATION: A proposal for more frequent meetings of the civic league was presented. The following suggestions have been made:

1. meet all months except January, July, August and December
2. meet bi-monthly and
3. meet monthly

A proposal to have meetings at the Work Force Development Center was also presented. These proposals will be brought before the civic league for a vote at the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Cloud, Secretary

Let's shed a light on crime prevention

Over the past few months, there have been break-ins, lurkers, continued larceny from autos, and murders within the general Wards Corner area, with some of this occurring here in Suburban Acres! We as a community owe it to us, our families, and our neighbors to strengthen our watch efforts and build a "safer" neighborhood.

Simple precautions can help prevent the spread of crime that is rampant in this area. One thing we ALL can do is start with the basics, like porch lights for example. When several lights are out, our streets become a haven for individuals to commit crime, sight unseen. It has long been suggested that this simple act of precaution may be all it takes to thwart a

would-be crime on your property. Our large properties and beautifully treed lots render unlit porches nearly invisible in the darkness, inhibiting our ability to look out for one another. If we all commit to lighting our porches in the evening, it would shed more than a little light on the situation.

Let's not give criminals the chance to hide in the darkness of our streets. It's a small step in the direction of preventing unnecessary crime within our community. We have a way to go in eliminating crime altogether in Suburban Acres, so let's start by doing our part to prevent some of the petty and potentially dangerous crime beginning at our front door. Lights on, for safety!

Civic League and Community News

Suburban Acres Neighborhood Watch Program To Begin

At our June meeting, Officer Sandra Parker from NPD Crime Prevention Unit spoke about Neighborhood Watch and how we could start up our own program. Several people expressed interest in the program and as a result, we'll be forming a planning committee to get our Neighborhood Watch Program underway.

JoDee Cook has volunteered to be "Watch coordinator" to help lead the group. Additional roles include "Block captains" to represent individual blocks, and "Block watchers" to provide the eyes and ears for the neighborhood.

There's more information about the program in our June newsletter or go online to www.norfolk.gov/police and click on "Neighborhood Watch". If you're interested in being a part of the program, or would like additional information, please call JoDee Cook at 587-7918 for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Distributing the Newsletter

Our newsletter team needs a few good neighbors to distribute the newsletter in the Glen Echo, Granby Park, Midfield and Archer's Green areas. The newsletter is

published eight times a year, and requires only 20 to 30 minutes for distribution in your area.

If you'd like to help, please call Mary Verykoukis, our newsletter distribution coordinator, at 587-1221.

Norfolk takes action against graffiti

Norfolk has established a graffiti abatement program called TAG-OUT. This program will be piloted in the area of the city with the highest concentration of graffiti.

Our neighborhood does not experience a high incidence of graffiti and we are not in the designated pilot area for the Tag-Out program. However, it is still important to report graffiti to police. The culprits are usually 12-24 years old, usually nonviolent, and their main crime is vandalism. They commit this crime for the rush, attention, recognition, and act of doing something illegal. They usually operate alone.

Gang members may also participate in graffiti as a message to other members and gangs. For this reason, it is important to report graffiti to the police as soon as possible.

The TAG-OUT program will work directly with concerned residents, business owners

and community-based agencies to identify, report and remove graffiti from public and private spaces.

At present, Norfolk will employ a mobile graffiti unit and painting contractor to assist in the removal of graffiti in the pilot area only.

All graffiti should be promptly removed within 24 to 48 hours to significantly reduce the chance of reoccurrence. City ordinance requires that a private property owner must remove graffiti within five days of the Notice of Violation. The property owner may be entitled to an incentive payment of up to

\$50 for removal materials.

To become a graffiti spotter, report areas and locations of graffiti to the Hotline at 664-6510.

New Street Sweeping Schedule Begins July

Monthly street sweeping begins in July for Norfolk residents. Suburban Acres is scheduled for sweeping the first Friday of every month.

Greater Wards Corner Partnership meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Workforce Development Center, 201 E. Little Creek Rd. Info: www.wardscornernow.com



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Fourth of July Parade continued from page 1

Suburban Acres will celebrate July 4th by donning our red, white and blue, and parading festively through the streets of our American homes! We'll return the cheers of parade-goers as we wave our flags and bang our drums in honor of freedom!

You're encouraged to join us as we grow this neighborhood tradition. We had a classic time last year with a wonderful display of patriotism including decorated bicycles, wagons, Power Wheels, a visit from the Tooth Fairy, Sugar and the Sweet Potato Princess, a famous juggler, and much more. Let's see how creative **YOU** can be this year!

We'll assemble at Suburban Park Elementary School on Galveston at 9:30 AM in preparation for a 10:00 AM parade. The parade route is short (1/2 mile) – leaving the school heading up Carl, turning left onto Brickby, left again onto Galveston, and ending at the school where refreshments will be served courtesy of the Suburban Acres Civic League.

Our local fire station (#9) will join us in the parade, and barring any emergencies, they'll post a fire engine afterward at the school for the kids to enjoy. If you decide to celebrate by cheering us along the parade route, that would be great too! Please remember to respect your neighbors' yards. I'm looking forward to celebrating with you.

Respectfully,

Timothy Fox

Suburban Acres Civic League, VP

Know Your Flag Etiquette

The flag should be displayed on all days when the weather permits, especially on legal or other special occasions. It is customary to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on building or on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, on special occasions it may be displayed at night, preferably lighted. A citizen may fly the flag on any day he wishes.

How to fly the flag

The flag should be raised and lowered by hand. Never raise the flag while it is furled; unfurl, then hoist quickly to the peak of the flagstaff. It should be lowered slowly and ceremoniously. The flag should never be allowed to touch anything beneath it, such as the ground.

Disposing of worn flags

Every precaution should be taken to prevent the flag from becoming soiled. When a flag is in such a condition, through wear or damage, it is no longer a fitting emblem for display. It should be destroyed privately in a dignified manner.



Parade photos: Timothy Fox

"We had a classic time last year with a wonderful display of patriotism including decorated bicycles, wagons, Power Wheels, a visit from the Tooth Fairy, Sugar and the Sweet Potato Princess, a famous juggler, and much more.

Let's see how creative YOU can be this year!"



Suburban Acres Athletes Shooting Stars!

Got your autograph books ready?

How many people know that Suburban Acres is home to quite a few high school athletes who are getting a lot of ink in the local papers.

Consider this:

The Eastern District's 2007 baseball "Player of the Year" and "Pitcher of the Year" lives on Virginian Dr. – Adam Wisniewski (Granby HS).

A 2008 "1st Team All-Eastern District" and "2nd Team All-Tidewater" short-stop lives on Thole St. – Andrew Frazier (Granby HS).

A 2008 "1st Team Eastern District" and "2nd Team All-Eastern Region" outfielder lives on Suburban Pkwy. – Jeff Ziesler (Granby HS).

A 2007 Varsity Football Team Captain and 2008 Varsity Baseball Team Captain lives on Virginian Dr. – Drew Barnhart (Norfolk Christian).

A sophomore who started for both the Varsity Soccer and Varsity Baseball Team lives on Suburban Pkwy. – Taylor Kool (Norfolk Christian).

Pretty impressive!

Are there more "stars" out there? If so, we'd like to hear from you. In fact we aren't even looking for "stars", we want to highlight everyone who plays. Since we have three high schools in our neighborhood, I'm betting there are a few more than those listed above.

In future articles, we're going to highlight our neighborhood's scholar-athletes. We'll start with high school, but who knows, maybe we'll expand to college and the lower grades!

If you know somebody from the neighborhood who's competing **at any school**, please send the information to Doug Barnhart (dbarnhart1@cox.net).

From the Department of Public Works update of June 13, 2008

Thole Street Traffic Calming Improvements

New landscape medians along the 300 & 600 Blocks of Thole St. Bids received May 20th. City to award contract upon VDOT approval. Construction to begin late July. Contract completion time is 45 days.



Introducing the Yard of the Month Mermaid

Beginning in July, our newly formed committee will be awarding a Yard of the Month "Mermaid" to one of our many beautiful yards.

Be on the look out for your neighbors "Ruby and Rita" who head this committee. The mermaid was made by our own Jack Sanderlin of Suburban Parkway. The first yard winner will be announced/awarded on the 4th of July.

Now is a great time to BUY!

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It's the most cost effective advertising for reaching your local customers. The newsletter is published eight times a year. You can place your business card ad for just \$15 an issue, or all eight issues for only \$108. With a newsletter circulation of over 550 households, that's a cost of only *two cents per household!* Take advantage of our 10% advertising discount on every ad with an annual contract.

Advertising deadline for the September issue is August 15 and for the October issue is September 19.

For complete ad rates and information, call Dennis Mori at 761-0197 or email moriconi26@msn.com.



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***Being an active member of your community
has never been as important as it is today.***

We need your involvement in the Suburban Acres Civic League. The larger our membership, the louder our voice will be heard! Don't wait, join today!

Individual Membership is \$5.00 and Family Membership is \$10.00. Make check payable to "Suburban Acres Civic League". Dues are now payable for the 2008 calendar year.

Suburban Acres Civic League Membership Form 2008

First Name

Last Name

Address

Phone Number

E-Mail Address

*Please make check payable to **Suburban Acres Civic League**. Mail with this form to Bruce Larson, Treasurer, Suburban Acres Civic League, 574 Thole Street, Norfolk, VA 23505.*