

SUBURBAN ACRES CIVIC LEAGUE NEWS



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Meet the Suburban Acres Civic League Board of Directors for 2009. From left to right: Doug Barnhart, Eric Heard and JoDee Cook, President Tim Fox, Secretary Lori Cloud, Treasurer Bruce Larson, and Susan Boice. Missing from this photo is Vice President Pearl Windle.

Message from the President

Hello and Happy New Year, neighbors!

With a number of dedicated folks contributing a little bit of time and energy, the Civic League is getting off to a good start this year. As we've begun to structure the 2009 agenda, feedback from the community has been largely surrounding security. It's important that we feel comfortable in our homes, and it is as important that we not become complacent when any threats seem to have subsided. To all who regard this subject as a priority, I encourage you to contact our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator to see what you can do to be a part of the solution. You may be surprised that physical effort is minimal...more so it requires a mindset and an awareness...then knowing how to respond. The Civic League is lining up various speakers throughout the year to provide security relative information to our citizens. Join us to learn about the resources available to you for enhancing the security of your home.

Security is only one of the initiatives we'll focus on this year. As I discussed with the Executive Committee, and again with the body during the last Civic League meeting, our core mission for 2009 is made of four parts.

**Join us at our
new meeting time
6:30 p.m.
Monday,
February 9, 2009
at Suburban Acres
Elementary**

(Continued on page 4)

Suburban Acres Civic League

Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

President's Introduction

2009 Goals announced. (See Page 1 "Message from the President" for information).

Announcements

Doug Barnhart is looking for high school and college highlights, including but not limited to sports accomplishments

SACL to purchase personalized domain name for the web-page: **Suburbanacres23505.com** at \$15/year

Request for guest speaker suggestions: HRT Light Rail plan; Update on security systems technology that is available on the market

PACE Report - Officer Bev Hubbard

December: two larcenies from autos on East Kenmore and one larceny from auto on Carl Street

January: one larceny from auto on East Kenmore

Shooting -Virginian Drive/Thole Street

Officer Hubbard offered limited details on the incident

VSP investigating officer, Trooper Freeman, to provide more information at the February SACL meeting

Committee Reports

SACL is pursuing the establishment of the following Standing Committees:

Membership - Developing and executing a membership development plan.

Communications - Newsletter production and distribution, advertising, web site development and administration, PR and marketing

Meetings, Programs and Special Events - Includes meeting hospitality and refreshments, special meetings and speakers, YOTM, organizing and planning special events

Community Liaison - Neighborhood Watch, Pace and public safety issues, builds and attends meetings and maintains relationships with GWCP, Business Association, Federation of Civic Leagues, and City Council

Programs / Guest Speaker

Officer Jodi Kowalski to attend February 9 meeting to speak about Crime Prevention/Residential Security

Neighborhood Security Report - JoDee Cook

Provided information acquired from VSP regarding the Virginian/Thole St shooting - VSP will attend next meeting to clarify



January Yard of the Month Winner

Congratulations to Richard and Nancy Eberle of 444 Brickby Road for their lovely yard, now adorned by Flora, Suburban Acres YOTM prize mermaid. Thank you for helping to make Suburban Acres beautiful!

Five new Neighborhood Watch signs are going up in Archer's Green area this month

Suspicious solicitors to be reported to 911/call and advise neighbors/do not open door

Report all walking on railroad tracks - call 911

Treasurers Report

Bruce Larson reported the checking balance as of December 31, 2008: \$656.42

Financial records are available for review by any paid member of the Civic League

Annual financial audit complete

Old Business

VOTED in favor of new meeting time for SACL meetings 6:30 p.m. - effective Feb 9, 2009

No left turn sign from Little Creek to Virginian - UPDATE - working with John Stephenson (City of Norfolk)

"New" signs to be removed from new STOP signs placed last year

Update on parking violations on Galveston by school

Thole Street Medians - vegetation expected to be planted in next couple of months

Parking Spaces / visibility of medians to be reviewed by City of Norfolk

New Business

Revision of Bylaws underway to refresh 1994 version

Paper streets - Many areas overgrown -- City of Norfolk to be contacted for maintenance

Next Meeting - February 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20pm

Civic League and Community News

For more news and events visit our website
www.suburbanacres.wordpress.com

Civic League Has A New Meeting Time

Civic League members voted almost unanimously in January to move meetings up to 6:30 pm. With this change, the social period that precedes the meeting will now begin at 6:00 pm. This change will save the Civic League money each month, as we are charged additional fees for time in the school after 8:00 p.m. - which we often are. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 6:30 pm at Suburban Park Elementary School. Come early for refreshments and socializing with your neighbors!

2009 Member Dues

Keep your membership active. You'll find a membership form on the back of this newsletter, or you can re-activate your membership at any meeting. For more information, email suburbanacres@gmail.com or call Bruce Larson at 761-0192.

Prevent Residential Burglary

"Prevention of Residential Burglary" is the presentation topic at the next Third Patrol Division PACE meeting on Friday, February 13 from 11a.m. to noon. Meetings are held at Work Force Development Center (next to Kroger). Lunch is provided.

Calling All Neighborhood Youth!

Your newsletter editors are seeking contributions by young people age 6 to 18. Submissions may include artwork, photos or essays on anything related to our neighborhood. We will pick an item each month to run in our new "It's Our World" column. Entries may be submitted to the editor at suburbanacres@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing all the young talent in our community! For more information call Susan Boice at 531-0487.

Wellness at Norfolk Senior Center

Suburban Acres seniors age 50 plus are invited to visit Norfolk Senior Center and Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center, 1300 Newport Avenue, to check out its exercise and wellness programs, as well as arts, crafts and other

activities. For more information call 823-4300 or online at www.norfolk.gov/wellness/

Senior Center Day Trip

Join your neighbors for a day trip on March 9, 2009 to Midway Slots at Harrington Raceway and Casino in Harrington, Delaware. This event is sponsored by Norfolk Senior Center and Amber Tours. Cost is \$49, which includes round trip motor coach transportation and \$5 in coins for the slot machines. Harrington Raceway & Casino now offers over 2,100 slots from one cent to \$25, as well as shopping and several restaurants. Call Chantel Randolph, Norfolk Senior Center Coordinator at 625-5857 for information. Payment required by February 27.

Online Community for Residents Age 50 Plus

AARP Virginia and Norfolk Public Library have partnered to create an online community. Participants create personal profiles, post pictures, and comment on topics of personal interest. After joining this social web site, participants can meet each other monthly at the Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library. Residents over 50 can join the online network by going to www.aarp.org/norfolk.

Fuel Assistance Program

Know anyone who might need assistance in paying their fuel bills? This program is for low income individuals. For more information, please contact 664-7550 or 664-7552.

Mermaid Fund

Bring a mermaid to our neighborhood! Donations are being accepted at civic league meetings and by mail. Checks can be made to 'Suburban Acres Civic League', with 'Mermaid Fund' in the memo. Mail to Bruce Larson, Treasurer, 574 Thole St., Norfolk, VA 23505

Greater Wards Corner Partnership Meeting

Place: Work Force Development Center (next to Kroger)
 Date: 4th Thursday Monthly
 Next meeting is February 26th at 7:00 PM
 Refreshments served

(Continued from page 1)

The SACL will be committed to fostering a cohesive neighborhood in which the residents 1) build and sustain quality lasting relationships, 2) work together to stay engaged with the city on matters that impact this neighborhood, 3) enhance preparedness and security measures to keep ourselves and each other safe and well, and 4) develop a culture where, by our example, our youth will learn to be active and effective citizens in their community – starting with their involvement today.

It is very important that we get to know each other a little better. Knowing your neighbors is certainly beneficial and rewarding. The Civic League will do its part this year to facilitate opportunities for you to get to know some of the folks sharing this acreage we call home. But on cold days like today, I hope you will forgive me as I simply wave from the window. (My best stab at humor.)

There is plenty going on around us, from Wards Corner re-development to home assessment format changes. We are going to do our best to keep you informed of the issues that impact us. Our awareness and participation in the issues is essential for our ability to influence the outcome.

More than security from crime, preparedness for emergencies is of high importance. Ensuring we know what to do when a hurricane hits or when injury occurs -- such knowledge can make every bit the difference in keeping ourselves and each other safe and well.

And lastly, let's put due focus on the youth of this community. Civic Leagues are largely attended by the elders of a community. I believe we owe it to our youth to teach them to be civic minded, so that they are prepared for sustaining healthy and productive communities in the future. I would be thrilled to see our Civic League put substantial energy into inclusion of our youth by developing programs that involve and recognize their efforts.

These goals for 2009 are certainly achievable, but they are only goals if we do not pull together to realize them. As the President of this organization, I too am a volunteer with many other commitments. I have a family with two small children, a home under renovation, and a demanding occupation. The importance of sustaining the

quality of this neighborhood is therefore all that much more important to me, though I confess there is a sacrifice -- but it's well worth it. I encourage you to join your Civic League in its effort to achieve the outcome for a thriving community.

Thank you to all who participate regularly and attend Civic League meetings, and a special thanks to the many volunteers who keep us organized and moving forward! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact any of the Civic League representatives.



Thanks and be well.

Timothy Fox

Suburban Acres Civic League, President

2009 Civic League Meeting and Events Calendar

<u>February 9</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>March 9</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>April 13</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>May 11</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>June 8</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>July 4</u>	<i>Fourth of July Parade</i>
<u>July 13</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>August 10</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>September 14</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>October 12</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>October 24</u>	<i>Fall Harvest Celebration</i>
<u>November 9</u>	Civic League Meeting
<u>December 14</u>	Civic League Meeting

**For more news and events visit our website
www.suburbanacres.wordpress.com**

Reduce the likelihood of becoming a *carjacking* victim by following these crime prevention tips

Although most of us feel secure traveling in our vehicles, *carjacking* has become a community concern with potentially high consequences. Everyone is vulnerable because it is a crime that is not limited to time of day, location, or type of vehicle. Carjacking has become a violent crime of opportunity for drug users and other criminals. You can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim by following these crime prevention tips.

Tip #1

Keep your vehicle locked at all times! Carjackers usually target unlocked cars with unsuspecting motorists. A running vehicle is an easier target because many theft deterrent features are disengaged at this point.

Tip #2

Be aware of your surroundings when approaching your vehicle! Scan the area and promptly move to your vehicle with your keys in hand. Check the back seat before getting in. Pay special attention to suspicious individuals loitering around your vehicle as well as any occupied vehicles nearby. Do not approach your vehicle until these suspicious individuals leave the area.

Tip #3

Be aware of your surroundings when you are driving! Maintain plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front in the event that you have to maneuver quickly. Never stop to assist strangers. You can call for assistance for them without stopping your vehicle. If you become involved in a suspicious traffic accident, do not exit your vehicle to check the damage. If you are in an isolated area, consider motioning to the other driver to follow you to a nearby gas station, police station, or other well-lit public place. If you feel like you are being followed by another vehicle, do not drive home. Call 911 and advise them of the situation.

Tip #4

Be aware of your surroundings when exiting your vehicle! Stay extra vigilant when parking. Scan your surroundings

Share the History of Suburban Acres

Do you have photos or stories revealing the history of Suburban Acres? We'd love to post some on the website or publish them in the newsletter. Please email any submissions to suburbanacres@gmail.com or bring them to the Civic League meeting. Any items that need to be scanned or copied will be handled with care and returned promptly.



NORFOLK SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Robert J. McCabe
Sheriff / High Constable

Robert J. McCabe, Sheriff
811 E. City Hall Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23510

Office: (757) 664-4713
Fax: (757) 441-2531
E-Mail: robert.mccabe@norfolk.gov
Web Site: www.norfolksheriffsoffice.com

before exiting your vehicle. Keep your doors locked until you have scanned the area and are ready to exit your vehicle. Park in well-lit areas near main aisles and walkways, away from dumpsters, wooded areas, vans, or other large vehicles that obscure your view and could possibly conceal suspicious individuals.

Tip #5

Always pull into your driveway front first, so your headlights illuminate the area in front of you.

What to do if you become a victim

Try to remain calm. Avoid verbal and physical confrontation. Do not resist. If your child is in the vehicle, tell the perpetrator that there is a baby in the car. Never attempt to reach for your purse or glove box as the perpetrator may think you are reaching for a weapon. Try and get a good description of the perpetrator, including height, weight, sex, age, and complexion.

Remember, *carjacking* can be deadly as well as dangerous. Your vehicle can be replaced, but you cannot! The Norfolk Police department wants you to stay alert, vigilant, and safe.

Announcements

Send announcements to suburbanacres@gmail.com



Happy FIRST birthday, sweet Cecilia! (January 23)
You are a blessing in our lives.
Love, Mama, Papa, & Bubbi—The Fox Family

Suburban Acres Athletes

Shooting Stars!

We have a lot of kids in our neighborhood who are doing some special things (see below); both athletically and academically! Wouldn't it be nice to highlight their accomplishments? Well we can, but we need your help!

If you know somebody who is doing something special, such as: graduating from high school or college, playing in the school band, singing in the choir, playing a sport, heading off to college or just doing something positive; we'd like to know and we'd like say "job well done"!

Unfortunately, we have limited reporting resources, so please send any info about a neighborhood *star* to dbarnhart1@cox.net and we'll take it from there. In the meantime, check these guys out:

Taylor Kool (Suburban Parkway) was a leader on Norfolk Christian's soccer team this fall. His 25 points (8 goals and 17 assists) placed him 8th among the TCIS (Tidewater Conference of Independent Schools) scoring leaders. He is also a member of Norfolk Christian's varsity basketball team.

Drew Barnhart (Virginian Drive) was selected captain of Norfolk Christian's football team for the second year. He was named "2nd Team All-State Tight End"; "1st Team All-TCIS Tight End" and "Honorable-Mention All-TCIS Defensive End".

Adam Wisniewski (Virginian Drive) recently signed a letter of intent to play baseball at ODU. Adam was captain of the historic Granby High School baseball team that went to the State Tournament in 2007 (first time in more than 25 years). He was named "Eastern District Player of the Year", "Eastern District Pitcher of the Year" and he was selected to the "1st Team All-Tidewater Baseball Team".

If you see any of these guys around the neighborhood, give them a round of applause. Next article? Please help me out or you're going to hear about my oldest son and his buddies!



Fleet Park Little League Registration

(formerly Wards Corner Little League)

What Little League Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball

Where	When
Online@ www.fleetparklittleleague.org	Ongoing
Fleet Park Little League Complex	Feb. 21, 28 (10-12:00) Mar. 7, 14 (@ try-outs)
Tabernacle Church, Granby St.	Feb. 21, 28 (10-12:00)

Who

Children (Ages 5-16)

League age is the age of child as of April 30, 2009.

For more information, call 446-8536 and leave a message or go to the website at www.fleetparklittleleague.org

Valentines Day Word Search

S	T	H	O	U	F	A	R	R	O	W	G
A	C	U	P	I	D	L	R	E	K	I	L
Y	A	G	A	M	O	S	O	N	F	F	O
U	R	E	D	N	L	E	S	W	M	C	V
H	E	A	R	T	D	C	E	B	E	A	E
W	I	N	E	K	I	R	B	Y	E	R	P
I	U	S	E	C	M	E	E	T	T	D	S
G	H	A	P	P	Y	T	M	A	R	A	Y
I	C	C	O	L	D	K	I	S	S	T	O
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	A	E	U
E	R	O	M	E	O	N	E	F	N	I	R
R	L	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	S

ARROW	CUPID	KISS	ROSE
BE MINE	DATE	LOVE	SECRET
CARD	FLOWERS	POEM	VALENTINE
CARE	HEART	RED	WINE
CHOCOLATE	HUG	ROMEO	YOURS

Help Set Our Civic League Goals

2009 Neighborhood Survey

The Civic League's management team needs to know what is important to you as we plan for the coming year. It's important that issues in our neighborhood are addressed and good ideas incorporated. With a few hundred families in our neighborhood, not everything can be included in the 2009 plan, but the Board of Directors will be charged with assessing and prioritizing what is presented.

Complete this brief survey and bring it to the January meeting, or complete the form online by January 15, 2009 at www.suburbanacres.wordpress.com.

My ideas/concerns:

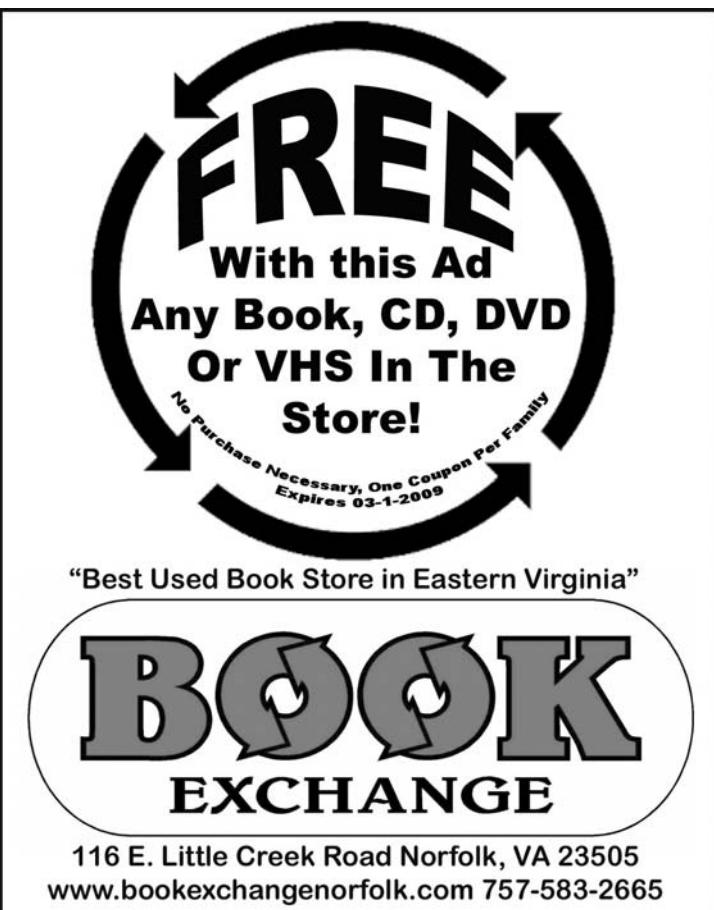
- Please contact me, I can participate on a committee or event
- No I'm not able to participate in a committee or event

Name _____

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**Neighborhood Watch
Coordinator**
JoDee Cook 587-7918

Web site
suburbanacres.wordpress.com

**Advertise in the
Suburban Acres
Civic League
News**

It's the most cost effective advertising for reaching your local customers.

Place your business card ad in the Suburban Acres Civic League News for just \$15 an issue.

Or take advantage of our 10% advertising discount with a multiple issue contract. Call now!

Advertising deadline for the March 2009 issue is February 15.

For complete advertising 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 (two individuals) is \$10.00. Make check payable to "Suburban Acres Civic League". Dues are now payable for the 2009 calendar year.

Suburban Acres Civic League Membership Form 2009

Individual \$5.00

Family \$10.00

Name (Please print and include both names for family membership)

Street Address

E-mail

Phone

Please make check payable to **Suburban Acres Civic League**. Bring to the next meeting or mail this form to Bruce Larson, Treasurer, Suburban Acres Civic League, 574 Thole St. Norfolk, VA 23505. **And thank you for your support!**