



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

Serving: Colony Point, Hariton Gardens, Merridale,
Pinehurst, Restmere, Rose Gardens, Sussex of Norfolk,
Virginia Gardens and Wexford Terrace

February 2007 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

February 26, 2007

7:00 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

NORFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE
PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim English jenglish@odu.edu

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

By the time you read this newsletter and by the time of our next civic league meeting, we will have either been successful in our attempt to change the mindset of the Virginia General Assembly in their efforts to severely restrict the eminent domain process that is being proposed or we will have failed. A failure would mean that our ten year effort to revitalize portions of the Greater Wards Corner Area through the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan would be lost and we would be left with the continuing growing cancerous blight that plagues certain areas of our Wards Corner Partnership area. At our last Wards Corner Task Force meeting on February 8th we learned from three Council members, Winn, Williams and Whibley as well as senior city and NRHA staff, that bills working through the General Assembly would essentially stop the way this city as well as the entire State uses eminent domain to get rid of blight. Let me make it clear that I am in full support of individual property rights when they do not infringe on another's rights or cause the deterioration of neighborhoods. However, there is such a thing as a community's collective right outweighing the rights of an individual. Mayor Rudy Guilianni knew that and it is how it turned around the many blighted areas of New York City, especially in the Times Square area of the city.

As a result of this crisis, members of the Wards Corner Task Force and Wards Corner Civic Leagues Executive Committees requested a meeting with Senator Rerras. That meeting was held on Sunday, February 11. Our meeting and message with Senator Rerras was simple: get the General Assembly to kill the proposed legislation or insert language in

the Senate bill that would allow the State of Virginia to continue to rid areas of blight for development. This process has been done successfully all over Norfolk. Without this tool Ocean View, Ghent, ODU, Broadcreek and many other areas of the city would not have been redeveloped for the betterment of its residents, neighborhoods and the city. Senator Rerras agreed to work to change the posture of the legislature as best he could by either working to have the bills killed in committee or adding the needed language to keep the process that is now used viable. Councilman Randy Wright was also in attendance and indicated that he would continue the fight to reverse the General Assembly's position on these bills for the city.

Other news from the Task Force meeting was more encouraging. The Department of Public Works presented a very good report of what they are doing in the area. These items include but are not limited to: 1. installation, to begin this summer, of mast arm traffic lights at Little Creek and Granby and Little Creek and Farm Fresh, 2. one way on Grantham with signs to be installed approved by City Council, 3. installation of mid block push button crossing lights on Granby St. north of Little Creek, 4. fixing an array of potholes and 5. studying the need for 4 way traffic stop signs on Burleigh Ave, Maycox Ave. and North Shore Rd at Restmere Road. For those wishing the no U-turn would go away (including me) on Granby Street across from the Post office, we were told that HRT wants them and therefore they will stay. We were also told that the improvements to E. Little Creek Rd. near the new WalMart should be completed by the end of February. Public Safety and Code Enforcement continue to be high priority issues for the city and they are working to keep crime down and strictly enforce property codes in the high crime target areas. Please notice the new black fence that has been installed on Granby Street through the business district. Our Beautification and Infrastructure committees were instrumental in getting that task accomplished. Finally, the Commissioner of Revenues report for FY 2006 has been released. For the 5th year in a row, the Wards Corner Business district is up in total sales, total retail sales and total tax revenue despite the fact that we have fewer businesses in the area. Just imagine if the northeast corner property in the business district were fully occupied, the figures would be even higher. Maybe someday that too will change. We can only hope that day will be soon.

I hope to see you at the next meeting of our civic league on February 26th at 7PM at the Wellness Center. As always we hope to bring you an exciting and informative speaker on a timely and important topic.

Thanks,
Jim English

2007 Great American Cleanup

The Great American Cleanup kick-off is March 24 with Keep Norfolk Beautiful Day. Our Adopt-a-Spot group will meet at our corner (Ruthven Avenue and W. Little Creek Road) at 8:00 AM to clean that area, and we encourage you to join us. We only spend an hour, and it's very positive to see that spot become trash-free.

Supplies are provided.

(P.S. If you're unable to join us, why not spend some time picking up the litter from the streets around your own home? If each of us would do that on a regular basis, the results would be amazing!)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

January 22, 2007

Wards Corner Civic League met at Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 7PM. President Jim English welcomed the attendees and led The Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Carrie Chase, of the National Association of Professional Organizers, spoke on Organize Your Life-Chaos to Calm. Her phone is 440 0352 and email is chaostocalm@cox.net. Mrs. Chase stated that January is the "organizer" month. She addressed two issues, paper and closets. On average, we receive 70 pounds of junk mail. Keep a shredder in the garage and "start by stopping it". Buy a file cabinet for things we wish to keep (motor vehicle, mortgages) and purge tax receipts after 10 yrs. Clutter and paper hold us in the past. Start a vertical file system so we can easily locate rather than sort through layers of paper (the geology technique). Daily, use it for credit card receipts, mortgage payments, reading articles, office papers, etc. Toss old school texts/papers. Online access to articles and literature is readily available. Computer scanning allows us to postpone a decision. With closets, turn hangers away from the door and notice the position at end of season. Those unturned, "give away". Get rid of "stuff". Use it for regifting, tax write-offs to charities and "pass your blessings on". Decide to give away or throw away 10 items a day for starters. Rid then organize. Electronic Recycle Day is in April (used computers, cell phones, etc). Carrie was thanked for her thoughtful and motivating advice.

President Jim asked for Email address updates. Sherry Romulus distributed an article concerning public schools/middle school problem. Jim gave an update on recent Taskforce/Partnership activities. Wal-Mart opened Jan.22 with a gas station addition. A litter problem at AJ Gator was addressed (broken glass/cast off containers/papers visible on weekends). Joan reported that the new black steel fencing is being installed for the WC Business district median, after daylilies removal. Jim stated the Grantham Ave. one way West ordinance passed for the future traffic at the new condos site. Our Police Second Precinct building complex is scheduled to begin construction in 2008.

Our Pace officer was absent. Questions were raised re: Newport Ave/ Burleigh Ave car vandalism and Hariton Court break-in, the North Shore Playground status, Soap and Suds, Steckroth Restaurant closing, Post Office traffic, bike riding youths at Bradford Ave., high rise fires.

A February public hearing is scheduled for the Denby Park/Monticello Village redevelopment/conservation area.

Issues brought forth were traffic light at Ruthven Rd/W Little Creek Rd accidents, Ruthven/Maycox stop sign, request for Restmere/Burleigh Aves and Colonial/Burleigh Aves. stop signs, no U Turn at the Post Office median, projected date of Green Neighborhood signs installation at Wexford Terrace and at Virginia Gardens, Sussex, and Hariton Court.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Secretary

WCCL Website

Don't forget to check our Website periodically. Martin Thomas, Jr. keeps it updated with many interesting items.

NORFOLK FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER NEWS

The Wellness Coordinator at the center, Angela Graciani, has passed us information about the "Wellness Wednesdays" program. These are free classes on health and wellness. The final one for this month will be on February 28, 6-7 PM. The topic is "Effective Strategies to Manage and Cope with Stress" by Dr. Brad Robinson, DC of Wards Corner Chiropractic. The Wellness Center number is 823-4301.

WCCL Board of Directors

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Newsletter ideas/comments-Barbara Ross
(Bookworms@WHRO.Net or 489-1024)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			<u>\$1214.10</u>
+ funds received	\$175.00		
-funds disbursed		\$71.93	
Ending Balance			<u>\$1317.17</u>

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

TODAY!

1. **Change 5 lights** Replace the conventional bulbs in your 5 most frequently used light fixtures with bulbs that have the ENERGY STAR label and you will help the environment while saving money on energy bills. If every household in the U.S. took this one simple action we would prevent more than 1 trillion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. Join Norfolk's goal to get 1,000 households to pledge in the "Change A Light" Campaign. Go to www.energystar.gov.
2. **Look for ENERGY STAR labeled products** When buying new products such as appliances for your home, get the features and performance you want AND help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Look for ENERGY STAR-qualified products in more than 40 product categories, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment and appliances.
3. **Heat and cool smartly** Simple steps like cleaning air filters regularly and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. **Use green power** Green power is environmentally friendly electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and the sun. Contact Dominion Virginia Power to encourage Virginia participation in this program. You can also modify your house to generate your own green power. There are a number of steps you can take to create a greener home, including installing solar panels and researching incentives for renewable energy in your state.
5. **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle** Norfolk and SPSA provides curbside recycling for most households and drop off recycling centers for other residents. Use products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials. Reducing, reusing, and recycling in your home helps conserve energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing, and disposal.

(We just have room for 5 this month. Five more in the next newsletter.)

WCCL MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues are \$5.00. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you are a continuing member and you have not renewed your membership for 2007, please submit your payment at a meeting or mail to the Treasurer, Ray Duron, at 530 Sterling Street, 23505. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail _____

Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	664-6921
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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Our February meeting has been moved one week because of the Monday holiday on our usual meeting day. Hope to see you at February's meeting on the 26th