



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

November 2007

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY November 19, 2007

6:45 PM
NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

WARDS CORNER
ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Presidents message

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Congratulations to all who helped and were involved in getting the approval for and the construction of the fence at the end of Burleigh Ave. in October. This is a great example of how a community facing a problem came together to address that problem. It stands as a good illustration of how things can get accomplished without always relying on the city to solve a problem. Most of you know the issue. At the end of the 600 dead-end block of Burleigh Avenue there was a walkthrough that has been a cut through for all of the people living west of our area. That in itself wasn't necessarily a problem. However over the last several years this has become an ever-increasing path for many and mostly young male adults looking to do property damage and vandalism to the citizens living in the upper blocks of Burleigh and Maycox Avenues. Many homes in the 500 and 600 blocks of both Burleigh and Maycox Avenues have been victimized by these dysfunctional thugs with nothing but time on their hands to create hate and discontent. In fact many others up and down Burleigh, Maycox and North Shore Road have found their properties vandalized over the past couple of years ending many, many years of what was once a very peaceful area where hardly anything happened to our properties. For several years the civic league tried to get the city to build a fence at the end of Burleigh to stop people from using it as a walk through. Well you know where that went. Nowhere! Now through the action of a group of very concerned neighbors from the end of

Burleigh Avenue, the issue was once again raised at the September Civic League meeting. The civic league heard their plea and promised to assist them with getting approval for the fence. The neighbors indicated that they would pay for the fence and see that it was built, but needed help getting the city to OK the construction. Thanks to members of the executive committee and others in the civic league, hurdles were jumped and the approval was given to build the fence. I should point out that this was not easy and red tape had to be cut in order to get the necessary approvals to build the fence on our timetable and not the city's. A member of the 600 block of Burleigh obtained the permit and also then built the fence. The neighbors in the 500 and 600 blocks of Burleigh Ave as well as the civic league came together to pay for the construction of the fence. Final result – the fence is up and hopefully the neighborhood will have some peace and relief from those cutting through with trouble on their minds. There are several people to thank for their efforts in this project but I have chosen not to name them here so that their privacy can be protected on this sensitive issue. They do, however, deserve a tremendous thank you for a job well done.

The recent events on Burleigh and Maycox Avenues and ones similar to it in other areas of our civic league point to the constant need to call the police immediately every time that you witness a criminal act. These acts of violence cannot be stopped or addressed unless the police are notified as the act is taking place. A recent event in the 400 block of Burleigh was stopped and the criminals captured within minutes upon the arrival of the police. This would not have happened if someone had not called the police as the act was being committed. No matter how small the act, if you see suspicious activity or a crime being committed, call the police. Put them on speed dial on your phone as I have done. The number is 911 for emergencies or 441-5610 for non-emergencies. This is the only way we can fight crime and get these thugs behind bars where they belong no matter what their age. Let's stop all crime in our neighborhood by keeping the police informed.

The City of Norfolk is asking residents to practice water conservation. Regina V.K. Williams, City Manager, has announced that Norfolk is in Water Conservation Condition I due to continued drought conditions throughout the state. Condition I acknowledges that current dry weather conditions present the potential for a water shortage in the future and requests voluntary

conservation. The City's nine reservoirs are typically 82% full at this time of year. Currently, they are 77% full. Before last week's rains, the reservoirs were 72% full. While the recent rains helped improve the drought situation, conserving water is prudent until reservoir levels return to normal. So please follow these water conservation tips:

- Check faucets and taps for leaks and repair if necessary.
- Water your lawn in the morning.
- Take shallow baths.
- Use the garbage disposal less
- Wash clothes and dishes only with a full load.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Keep showers to less than 5 minutes.
- Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks.

If we all follow these tips, hopefully we won't have mandatory restrictions placed on us.

Finally, at our November meeting we will have an open discussion about issues and concerns of the civic league area and how we can better address them. Please bring your ideas to the next meeting or email them ahead to me. See you there!

Thanks, Jim English

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep Norfolk Beautiful

Your help is needed to pick up litter at our Adopt-A Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek) on Saturday, November 17, 8:00 AM. Questions?? Call Ray Duron at 423-4337.

You are encouraged to attend the meeting of the Wards Corner Task Force on Thursday, December 13, 8:30 AM, at the Fitness and Wellness Center. We're asking residents to show our elected officials that our community is important to us, and that we support their efforts to promote safety and encourage development. (This is a regular monthly meeting, second Thursday.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1488.57
+ funds received	\$125.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1,545.32

WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE DIRECTION

These questions were asked at the September civic league meeting. Please consider them, and e-mail your responses to any of the Board members, or come to our November meeting to discuss them.

1. What do you like best about the civic league?
2. What/how could we improve the civic league?
3. What programs would you like to see in the next several months?
4. What are your biggest concerns for the WC area?
5. How should they be addressed?

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 _____

WCCL Board of Directors

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Linda Spear	402-8583
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
Secretary	Joan Griffey	440-9508
Treasurer	Ray Duron	423-4337

Web Master-Martin Thomas, Jr. 618-6468
Newsletter ideas/comments-Barbara Ross
(Bookworms@WHRO.Net or 489-1024)

www.wardscorner.com

Neighborhood Get Together
November 11 or 18th
3 pm

Cake and Coffee Thanksgiving Social

Host: Well suited for elderly folks as the party is indoors and hosting can be shared.

What do I need? Paper cups, napkins, cake & cookies (purchased is okay), garbage bags for clean up

Guests: Neighbors – from block or larger area

What do I need? What in the neighborhood are you thankful for? Good attitude, help with clean up

What do we talk about? Good deeds by neighbors, thoughtful tasks done by neighbors, barking dogs that scare away the bad guys, gardens that brighten the neighborhood, what ever makes a good neighborhood for you!

Thanksgiving is the one universal holiday in America. Religion is not the primary impetus to the holiday; although, I can't think of any religion that does not honor the bounties of our lives.

I am thankful for the neighbors who watched my contractor like a hawk. They double checked his measurements and made sure they were accurate and appropriate. I'm also thankful that the contractor was trustworthy.

I'm thankful for the retired neighbors who went out and got ice for the neighborhood before the last hurricane that struck Hampton Roads. I'm thankful for the neighbors who shared their refrigerator/freezer stores in community fashion before the food went bad – same hurricane.

I'm thankful for the neighbors who watch my house when I'm gone.

I'm thankful for a Civic League that cares about all the neighbors in the neighborhood. I'm *very thankful* for all the folks who take an hour out of their busy month to fold and distribute the Civic League newsletter. I'm thankful for the Wellness Center for letting us meet at their public facility. I'm thankful for all the members of the Executive Committee who let me disagree with them and still like me.

Please let us know if your block in the neighborhood has a party and how it went.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Wards Corner Civic League met on October 21, 2007 at 6:45 PM in the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. President Jim English welcomed members and guests and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The program for this meeting was to allow us to meet our two candidates for VA Senate for the 6th District, Nick Rerras and Ralph Northam, and the two candidates for VA House of Delegates for the 87th District, Paula Miller and Admiral Henry Giffen. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 6. Jim stated the rules of engagement for the candidates and later asked the questions proposed by the civic league members.

Senator Nick Rerras is 50 years old, has worked eight years in the Senate, named Senator of the Year and Legislator of the Year by police and sheriffs' associations, supports safe schools, the environment, led the effort to cap property taxes, and is anti-payday lending. Ralph Northam, a pediatric neurologist, is from Onancock, EVMS, US Army, CHKD, and Edmarc Hospice. He is for transportation relief, pre K funding, health care, environment, property tax controls. Questions asked concerned VA constitutional amendments, Real Estate Homestead Exemption over 5% property tax cap, VA voters for animal welfare, eminent domain, and promise to attend future civic league/Partnership meetings.

Delegate candidates were introduced. Adm. Giffen is retired Navy (33 years), has led a life of service and leadership, involved with HR USO Board, VP SEIC (Strike force Systems Integration), believes the city needs scrutiny with spending, is for success in pre K education, and wants funding for transportation. Del. Paula Miller has experience as a TV reporter, Va Beach Sheriff Office public information officer, is married to George Schaefer, Clerk of Court. She has represented Norfolk 3 years in Richmond. She supports transportation funding, change in bad driver fees, pre K education funding, and eminent domain. Questions asked concerned 3rd crossing, truck traffic on Hampton Boulevard, health care, war on cancer, smoking bans in restaurants, eminent domain, Homestead Exemption Act. The delegate salary is \$17,600.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Secretary

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