



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

October 2007 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY October 22, 2007

6:45 PM
NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

CANDIDATE FORUM

President's message

By Jim English ajim.English@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

Please take note of my new email address above. While I still have the jenglish@odu.edu email address and will respond to your messages at that site, I am trying to change my civic league and organizational activity to the new address. I am doing this because the volume of messages that I am receiving from a variety of organizational sources that I am involved with has increased significantly over the past several weeks and I want to be able to keep track of them more efficiently with this new email address.

I was very pleased with the turnout at our September meeting. It was one of the largest gatherings of our neighborhood in many months. Many issues were discussed as you can read about in our Secretary's report. We are working very hard on resolving the issue regarding the installation of a fence at the end of Burleigh Avenue and are near to getting the approval for the installation. This has been a cooperative effort among many neighbors. Many thanks to Martin Thomas Jr., Ken Byers, Sherry Romulus and others for helping to bring this tough issue to resolution. Hopefully, by the next issue of this newsletter, the fence will be up and the steady flow of troublemakers who are causing much anxiety and alleged criminal activity and using Burleigh Avenue as a pass through will end. While a fence may not stop the crime of recent times in the area, it should slow it down.

This newsletter indicates that we will have an election candidate forum at our October 22nd meeting. As in the past this will be a very structured forum and debate. Please bring written questions that you would like to ask those running for the Virginian General Assembly offices. The questions will be

collected and asked of the candidates. Cards will also be handed out at the meeting as well for you to write your questions down at that time. As the moderator of the forum, I will read the questions to the candidates. In November we will have a general civic league "issue and concern session" as a follow-up of discussion that was begun in September. If you have issues and concerns, please bring them to the November meeting. You may also email me those issues and concerns ahead of time and I will bring them with me. We asked several questions at the last meeting, and these are provided in this newsletter to serve as a basis for your thoughts and questions.

A new website has been developed for the Greater Wards Corner area. It is Wards Corner Now and you can access it at www.wardscornernow.com. Thanks to Martin Thomas Jr. who has constructed this website at the request of the Greater Wards Corner Partnership. It is also linked to our website www.wardscorner.com and our site is linked to that of the partnership site as well. This website will serve as a forum on issues concerning the Greater Wards Corner area as well as information about the Wards Corner Task Force and Partnership. Please take a look and stay informed by using both of these sites.

Finally, an article posted on the Wards Corner Now website needs my comment. A request is being made to send a letter of support for the downsizing of DePaul Hospital and total revamping of the Bon Secours Health Care system in our area. The author of this article indicates that this has the support of the Greater Wards Corner Partnership. In asking folks in attendance at the last several meetings of that group if there was a vote taken to show this support, all of my contacts indicate that this is not the case. I am not sure when, where, how or why this support was obtained. Let me assure you that the Wards Corner Civic League is NOT in favor of the downsizing of DePaul Hospital. While Bon Secours is saying that this will be a great thing for our area, we do not believe that this true at all. This is merely an economic and business decision and has absolutely nothing to do with increasing the quality of health care to our area or any of the residents living in the sector of the city north of the Granby Street bridge. They have offered no compelling justification that this will impact positively or negatively the quality and access to health care in our area. By just saying it is a good thing does not make it a good thing. Downsizing a 200+ bed hospital to a 50 bed hospital makes no sense and can not possibly provide us with the level of health care that DePaul now provides. A 50-bed hospital is not cost effective and the services that would come with it would be severely limited. Downsizing to a 150-160 bed hospital would make more sense and would be within the daily census that the hospital now realizes. Consider this-if you have a heart attack or stroke, you may go to DePaul for emergency care, but then you would be transferred to the ICU,

CCU, or Heart Center at Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth for the level of care that would not be available at DePaul. Also, there will be no Obstetrics at DePaul, so you will have to go elsewhere to have that baby. While the train may have already left the station on this proposal and it may come to fruition, I would urge you to do one or all of the following. First, get informed about the real impact of the downsizing of DePaul Hospital on our city and community. Then:

a. Ask Bon Secours to show how this proposal will not affect our community negatively by writing a letter to them at:

Bon Secours Marketing and Planning
110 Kingsley Lane
Suite 511
Norfolk, Virginia 23505

b. Write your city council representative about the impact of this proposal at:

City Council's Office
Room 1006 City Hall Bldg.
810 Union St.,
Norfolk, VA 23510

Office of the Mayor
Room 1109 City Hall Bldg.
810 Union St.,
Norfolk, VA 23510

and/or

c. write the Virginia Commissioner of Health about the impact of these changes on our city and community at:

Robert B. Stroube MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health
Virginia Department of Health
P.O. Box 2448
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2448

I hope to see you all at our next civic league meeting.

Thanks, Jim English

Another Comment from a WCCL Member

DePaul hospital will not just be downsized, but the scope of medical services will be reduced drastically. Thus out of the proposed 54 beds, 8 will be rehab beds. DePaul intends to eliminate medical beds, and to focus on high volume, quick turnover surgeries instead of non-surgical admissions. They also intend to eliminate critical care services which serve the sickest patients. This new proposed, more profitable, hospital will not adequately serve the needs of the community. The Wards Corner area is home to a number of elderly and disabled persons living in housing developments. Loss of DePaul hospital will make access to health care more difficult for all Norfolk residents and for the Wards Corner area residents in particular. Yuliya Dobrydeneva

October Neighborhood Get Together:

October 20 or 21

2 pm

Pumpkin Carving Party

Host: Well suited for families with teenagers who can assist in the carving of pumpkins and designing them.

What do I need:

Cider – hot, cold or both?
Doughnuts (Krispy Crème, Dunkin', etc.)
Cups, Napkins, Handy wipes or damp paper towels, Garbage bags
Ideas from magazines, the web, your kids
Some cutting devices
Place for messy workers
Pumpkins
Pumpkin carving tools
Help with clean up

Guests:

Neighbors from block

What do we talk about: What will the neighborhood do on Halloween night?

Will the little kids get together and parade around the neighborhood?

Will special treats be set aside for neighbor kids?

How will we know you're a neighbor?


Will the teens put together a small "test your nerve" tunnel?

(appliance boxes covered with popcorn, wet spaghetti, rubber spiders, etc.)

Should we do a block party on Halloween night?

Why a pumpkin decorating party? First, it's fun. Second, teens who help carve a pumpkin have some ownership in that pumpkin. Third, teens need to be seen in a positive light and this is an opportunity for them. Fourth, it gives the parents of little ones an opportunity to plan safe trick or treating in their own neighborhood. Fifth, it lets the seniors know what to expect on Halloween night. Sixth, you will get to know your neighbors better. Seventh, it's fun.

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



Wards Corner
Kid Safe
Halloween Spook-tacular

October 31, 5:30 to 8:00pm

- Trick-or-Treating for Kids up to the age of 12
- Tim Nolan - Juggler
- Haunted House
- Food, Games, Contests & More!
- Astro - DJ

Presented by the Greater Wards Corner Business Association

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Due to technical difficulties, the secretary's minutes were not available at print time. We'll publish a summary next month, and make the full report available on the website.

www.wardscorner.com

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?

Important Phone Numbers

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

WCCL Board of Directors

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Linda Spear	402-8583
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution	Lee Goldman	287-1619
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)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			<u>\$1511.82</u>
+ funds received	\$45.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1,488.57

NEWS AND NOTES

Thanks to our Wards Corner Adopt-a-Spot people who helped us in our continued efforts to "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" on the September 22 clean-up. They were Adriana Byers, Diane Dubay, Jim Pressler, Barbara Ross, and our Adopt-a-Spot leaders, Betty and Ray Duron. And, don't forget-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-423-4337.

You are encouraged to attend the meeting of the Wards Corner Task Force on Thursday, November 8, 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.)

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 _____