



Wards Corner Civic League

CROSSROADS

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

September 2007

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY September 17, 2007

**6:45 PM
NORFOLK FITNESS AND WELLNESS
CENTER**

**Agenda
NORFOLK ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION-BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE
EXPANSION TO ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION CENTER AT ZOO AND
"GREENING" YOUR HOME**

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

The summer has once again sped by. I hope yours was enjoyable and relaxing and you are now ready to begin the fall activities. With fall fast approaching, school is in session and the Wards Corner Civic League will again hold its regular meetings beginning with our meeting at 6:45PM on September 17th at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. While we have not had a meeting in two months, the board members and members of our civic league have been busy working on issues to make our area better. This newsletter reflects some of these issues and concerns that we have been involved in and working on. Please read all of the important pieces in this issue.

A special thanks is in order to our State Senator Nick Rerras for providing us with 1000 flags and cards on the Fourth of July. Thanks to Ray Duron and his team of flag deliverers for staking these flags throughout our civic league area early on the Fourth. I hope you enjoyed them. The area looked great with all of the flags flying. Thanks also to Ray and his litter "picker uppers" for continuing to clean up our Adopt-a-Spot at Ruthven and W. Little Creek Roads. Finally, thanks also to Martin Thomas Jr. for updating and managing our civic league website www.wardscorner.com. Take a look. We hope to provide you with timely and informative news and the opportunity to access other links from this site.

The city's Division of Transportation has installed the much-needed stop signs at the Burleigh and Maycox Avenue intersections with Ruthven Road. It was citizen input and Civic

League concerns that provided the impetus for this. We are much appreciative of these needed signs. Joan Griffey, our Secretary and Beautification Committee Chair, reports that the city will begin installing new playground equipment and other improvements in the park at Restmere and North Shore Roads in October. This is an improvement that has been long-awaited. Way to go, Joan, and thanks for staying on top of this issue for us! Please be aware of another code change that was recently passed by city council. To avoid being ticketed, cars are now required to be parked at least three feet away from driveway entrances (or the curb cut). Evidently this has been a problem in some neighborhoods in the city and the law has been changed to ease the problem of people parking their cars either in front of driveways or too close to the curb cut. If you have multiple vehicles and can't get them all in your driveway, please remember this as you park your car.

Each fall, the Mayor and City Council hold their annual Community Leaders picnic. This year, the picnic will be on September 15th from 11:30AM to 2:30PM at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. The city is celebrating the 325th anniversary of Norfolk's establishment in 1682. In recognition of the occasion, the Mayor and City Council are extending an invitation to attend this picnic to all members of our civic league and their families. This is great! Please come out and join the Mayor and Council members and enjoy good food and a good time. This is a great opportunity to network with members of our city council, city department representatives and other citizens working for a better Norfolk. Please join us.

I want to welcome you back to another year of good, productive civic league meetings. If you regularly attend our meetings, please bring a neighbor. If you have never been to a meeting, or you are new to the area please join us. We have built strong rapport and political clout with our council representatives to this area, and a strong active civic league like ours helps us maintain it. We have a great fall program lined up with a presentation on sustainable building design including "greening" your home to be more environmentally friendly in September, and an election candidate forum in October. Please note, however, that the October meeting will be on the FOURTH Monday and not the third as usual. The date has changed from October 15th to OCTOBER 22nd. Please mark your calendars.

Please enjoy this newsletter. Please join your civic league. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you on the 17th of September at 6:45PM at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center

Respectfully,

Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

June 18, 2007

Wards Corner Civic League meeting was held at Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center on June 18, 2007 at 6:45PM. (Building must be vacated by 8:30PM) President Jim English was out of town. About 40 members were present.

Vice President Linda Spear led The Pledge of Allegiance. She related Flag Etiquette and gave facts of its beginnings (1802) and additional words "under God" (1954).

Ray Duron, WCCL Treasurer, and Chair of "Adopt A Spot" for our league requested volunteers to "clean up" litter at the site of Ruthven Road and W. Little Creek Road at 8AM, Saturday, June 22. Gloves and trash bags are provided!

PACE Officer Curtis Jackson invited all to a Red Sector meeting on July 13 from 11AM 'til 2PM at The Ernie Morgan Center (at Norfolk Zoo). He reported on the proposed electronic surveillance for detection of gunshots plus gave crime statistics: stolen items from cars (2), stolen vehicle (1) 200 block of W. Little Creek Road, investigation ongoing of Walgreen's larceny. Officer Jackson defined larceny, robbery, assault, burglary. To report a problem, contact him @ 831-3484 or E-mail at curtis.jackson@norfolk.gov. You may also notify wayne.mcbride@norfolk.gov.

Linda Spear introduced our invited speakers from Norfolk Police Gang Squad, Gene Balance and Ryan McNiff. Begun in 1990, it has 6 members who investigate violence, shootings, and robberies and provide training for school administration. It is not unlawful to belong to a gang, but it is against school codes. "Criminal Street Gangs" means any ongoing association group of three whose primary objective is commission of criminal acts, has an identifiable name, sign or symbol, and has members who collectively engage in criminal behavior. Gang members range in age from 13-21 years old. These members often exhibit low self esteem, feel uninvolved at home, do poorly in school and find it difficult to make decisions and communicate with others. Many come from single parent homes. A gang awareness program is needed in the schools for 9-10 yr olds but budgeting is nil. Gang Hotline is 664-7021.

Linda thanked the attendees and announced adjournment. We meet next on Monday, September 17.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Recording Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			<u>\$1525.07</u>
+ funds received	\$55.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1,511.82

Our Vice President, Linda Spear, has suggested a monthly column on Neighborhood Get Togethers, an idea for a social event that helps people meet their neighbors and keep up with what's happening in the neighborhood. Here's her suggestion for September, and she would welcome thoughts from other civic league members.

Neighborhood Get Together

September ??

? pm

Root Beer Float Lawn Party

Host: Well suited for elderly folks. Party is out on the lawn and ingredients are minimal. Hosting can be shared.

What do I need?

Tall plastic/paper cups
Tall spoons
Straws
Napkins
Ice cream scoop/two
Root beer – regular and diet (?)
Vanilla ice cream
Garbage Bags for clean up
Lawn Chairs or blankets
Good attitude
Help with clean up

Guests: Neighbors – from block or larger area

What do we talk about? Hurricane season

- Who will be leaving?
- Who will get ice?
- Who will need help?
- Etc.

Why an ice cream float party?

- First, it's American.
- Second, it is easy.
- Third, it's easy on the budget (and who doesn't need that!).
- Fourth, it's easy to put together and take down.
- Fifth, root beer is naturally decaffeinated (Moms-pay attention) and it is the least corrosive soda on teeth.
- Sixth, its fun!!

NEWS AND NOTES

Your civic league at work...

- New stop signs at Ruthven/Burleigh, Ruthven/Maycox
- New green neighborhood Virginia Garden sign at W. Little Creek Road /Restmere
- New fenced dumpster at SaiGai restaurant
- One way traffic at new townhomes at Grantham/Restmere

Civic league help needed...

- Grass overgrowing sidewalks at several residences
- Removal of aLantic Bank sign at Maycox/Granby
- Requests for North Shore playground budgeting
- Less littering
- No parking on the grass
- Neighborhood watch and neighborhood pride

It's Back to School Time...

Crosswalk Safety Tips - Crosswalks are either "marked" (a sign of a person walking between lines) or "unmarked" (no sign, but crosswalk marks on the road). At any crosswalk, drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians who are within a crosswalk.

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, September 22 – 8:00 AM. Questions?? Call Ray Duron-423-4337.

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)

WCCL Website

The Wards Corner Civic League Website.

www.wardscorner.com

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

THANK YOU

Thanks to our Wards Corner Adopt-a-Spot people who helped us in our continued efforts to Keep Norfolk Beautiful on the June 23 clean-up. They were Linda Spear, Stephanie Gallagher, Diane Dubay, Valerie Van De Venter, Dave Riley, Brian Emrich, and our Adopt-a Spot leaders, Ray and Betty Duron.

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 _____