



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

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

December, 2007

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

Join us again on January 28, 2008
Guzin Akan-Traffic Pattern Changes
Election of Officers
Review of Constitution and Bylaws

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English jim.English@gmail.com

Holiday Greetings to all. The holiday season is upon us. It is a time for great anticipation, reflection and joy as all of us celebrate our respective traditions and religions. It is also a time that we need to reflect on those in our community, city, nation and world who may not be celebrating a joyful season and reach out to them when and if we can do so. Helping those who are in need or are shut-in is perhaps the best gift we can give them. Thinking of those fighting a war in the far away Middle East and helping or assisting their families if needed is the best way we also as neighbors can support them. As we gather with our own families this holiday season, let us not forget that there are those folks out there who may not be able to celebrate. They need our thoughts and prayers. A simple smile, hello, or can I help you goes a long way to show them that someone cares. Let us also pray that all of our city leaders will be guided to make sensible and responsible decisions for all of the residents of the city in the coming year.

Instead of my normal area information message, I thought I would use the space to share with you some ideas on going "green" for this Holiday season in case you were looking for some ways to protect our environment. I am not a tree hugger by definition, but working for the betterment of the public's health through sound environmental practices is my profession. I truly believe we all can do something, even if it is ever so small, to make a difference in protecting our environment for all of us. Here goes, which is taken from Go Green This Holiday Season: Have an Eco Friendly Christmas by © S. Elliott

"Christmas is a holiday noted for conspicuous consumption. Show your respect for the planet by adopting some new

Christmas traditions this year. Going green is becoming more popular, but even more important, it's good sense: for you, your family, and the entire world.

Christmas Cards that Protect the Environment

Let's face it; most Christmas cards end up in landfill. They can be loving reminders to people far away, but this year why not consider sending e-cards to loved ones who have computers. That way you can send loving thoughts of the season while showing your love for the planet.

Holiday Wrapping Paper and the Environment

I don't think there is anyone who hasn't had a moment's pause when disposing of all of that wrapping paper the day after Christmas. What a waste. This year, why not try wrapping smaller gifts with fabric. There are thousands of Christmas fabrics available that can be cut with pinking shears (so they don't ravel) and used to wrap smaller gifts.

These decorative wraps can be used year after year. The average bolt of cotton fabric is 42" to 45" wide, and many seasonal fabrics are very reasonably priced. Fabric makes a unique and impressive presentation when used to dress a gift, and it is also good for the environment.

Buy Local at Christmas

It is a good practice to get into the habit of buying local. When you buy local seasonal produce or buy from local artisans, you are saving on packaging and transportation costs.

Your Christmas Tree

There is some controversy over whether an artificial or real tree is the most environmentally responsible way to go, but it is a sure bet that if you buy a living tree that you are planning on planting after the holiday, you'll be doing the planet a favor. When you shop for a living tree, select one that will grow in your area and can be kept in a pot outdoors until your ground thaws in spring. Plan on bringing your living tree indoors no more than a week before Christmas, and put it back outdoors right after Christmas. If you live in an apartment, or don't have room in your yard for an evergreen, check into the option of donating it to a local rest home or children's center after the holiday.

If you opt for a cut tree, try to locate a lot that sells trees that are locally grown, and recycle it after the holiday.

Christmas Gifts

If you are buying electronic gifts to replace items in your home, dispose of old electronic components and batteries responsibly. Whenever possible, purchase gifts that are made from recycled materials or from retailers that support eco-friendly businesses.

Consider making a eco-aware donation on a gift recipient's behalf this year. Teaching someone the value of giving is a great gift in itself.

Energy Awareness Over the Holidays

Cut back on your Christmas lighting. It's tempting to want to share your Christmas spirit with the neighborhood, but consider the ways in which the energy might be better spent. Use good energy conservation practices in your kitchen by monitoring your use of the oven and controlling how long you leave your refrigerator door open. This seems like a small thing, but waste adds up.

Holiday Food

Don't buy more food than you can eat. Use leftover vegetables to make soup after the holiday. If you have extra, you might consider sharing by donating it to a local charity or soup kitchen.

Going green is an every day commitment, but you can make a start during the holidays. Give a gift to the planet and everyone who lives on it by being ecologically conscious."

My family is buying an artificial tree this year for the very first time instead of a real tree. From my family to yours, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season with the best of wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Thanks, Jim English

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 November 17 clean-up at our Adopt-a-Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek). They were Linda and Bruce Spear, Stephanie Gallagher, and our Adopt-a-Spot leaders, Betty and Ray Duron.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's the end of the year, and new officers will be elected at our January meeting. The current board members have agreed to run again for next year, and nominations will be taken from the floor, with the nominee's approval. The Nominating Board will also provide a slate of nominees.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1545.32
+ funds received	\$40.00		
-funds disbursed		\$178.75	
Ending Balance			\$1406.57

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Are you thinking of your resolutions for the new year yet? Don't forget to include joining your Civic League and becoming an active member. Civic League dues (\$5/member) are payable in January.

Adopt A Spot: Grantham & Ruthven

Linda Spear

I have been assisting in the Adopt A Spot program for awhile. I could not help noticing that the volume of trash on the north side of Grantham is way **down**. I also didn't pick up one piece of broken glass on the north side. Broken glass is so dangerous to the little children and dogs.

Kudos to the residents of Grantham!!

Residents of Grantham – for picking up their trash!
Children of Grantham – for putting those Halloween candy wrappers in the trash!

Apartment Managers – for policing their yards!
Motorists passing through – for not throwing your trash out the window!

Clean neighborhoods are safer neighborhoods. Clean neighborhoods are more pleasant to live in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WCCL is again sponsoring our Holiday Home Decoration Contest. Have your lights on by 6:30 PM the evening of December 17 when the judges will be touring the neighborhoods. Prizes (two movie passes for each category) will be awarded at our meeting on January 28th. Categories include Most Traditional, Most Whimsical, Best Overall and Honorable Mention.

January and February meetings have been moved one week because of the Monday holiday on our usual meeting day. January's meeting is on the 28th and February's meeting will be on the 25th. Please note that our December meeting is cancelled because the Wellness Center will be closed for renovations.



From your 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)

Newsletter Delivery Person – a profile:

Who are the men, women, and children that deliver the Wards Corner Civic League each month? They are our neighbors. Their ages range from pre-school to those enjoying their second childhood. Many work a full time job outside the home. Yup, they are caught in the same gridlock as the rest of us. Some are retired – although their active life style of volunteerism creates a bit of an oxymoron. Some are at home working to raise the next generation of civic league citizens.

Many of our volunteers face obstacles. Some have been ill or have a family member facing medical hardships. Some have vision problems and must arrange to deliver their newsletters during day light hours. Some are using the experience to teach their children the value of volunteering – yes, the kids are carrying the newsletters to your door. Some couples team up and enjoy the camaraderie.

Every one of the delivery persons gets a nice walk around the neighborhood. Sometimes you meet your neighbors and learn about them. I meet someone with a real nice herb garden who likes to cook Mexican. I'm still waiting for a sample. You can see problems beginning and bring them to the Board of Directors. This has helped to stem some real serious problems. You get to see the positive changes as well. I've seen so many houses rehabilitated in the last few years. New windows here, new paint job there, someone picks up the trash, and someone extends a helping hand. A neighborhood.

Some people deliver a dozen newsletters and some deliver over 100. The old adage of many hands make for light work is very true.

We could use a little help from our friends.

*Specifically – 100 & 300 block of North Shore
100 block Maycox
500 block Maycox
Elvin Rd, Elvin Ct, & Granby – Winter Months
only
Sheryl
Newport Ave –North of Little Creek*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Wards Corner Civic League members met on Monday, November 19, 2007 in the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center at 6:45 PM. President Jim English opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked that 2008 dues be paid in January, giving each paid member a vote on important issues. Martin Luther King Day is observed on our January meeting date. The NFWC is closed. A new meeting date will be identified.

Officer Jackson, NPD, stated that a drop in crime but an increase in larcenies has occurred. Be aware of surroundings in the holiday season, remove all visible articles from your car and lock it. He reported: 3 larcenies, 4 car break-ins, vandalism (spray paint), Walgreens robbery. Members

questions were: the spray painted playground sign, teens hanging out past 10 PM, gas station at Wards Corner illegally peddling stuffed animals, Mr. M sub shop has been sold, and the new owner wishes an ABC license, begging at the Post Office, threats from foul mouthed bicyclist on Burleigh Avenue, street light burnout at Newport/W. Little Creek Roads (call 664-6510), request for streetlights at Rebel Road and North Shore Road and Maycox and Cedar Level, parking of trucks at NFWC during storm drain replacement.

Jim English announced that Martin Thomas, Jr., our Bylaws Chair and our Webmaster for wardscorner.com and for wardscornernow.com (with more than 60 registered) will move up to 2nd Vice President and will assume distribution of the newsletter. In January, elections will be held. Past President Jack Blair, Adopt-A-Spot Chair Betty Duron and Fitness Center Rep/Linda Trauseau, will serve as the Nomination Committee. Bylaws update will be presented in January and voted on in February. Calming of traffic on Newport Avenue will see a change in street paint markings and a mini circle at Newport Avenue and Carlisle Way. Guzin Akan, Traffic Engineer, has been invited to speak to our civic league soon. Linda Trauseau reported that the Fitness Center has 7000 members, is working on a new boiler, a family dressing room, replacing 4 panels over the pool, seeking funding for kitchen banquet hall and for more parking.

For WC Taskforce Committee, Joan Griffey questioned why \$1.1 million is allocated for Town Point Park but not for Wards Corner; noted 6-7 empty storefronts in the Martone property, enforcement of codes, Project Focus, apartment rental inspections, development of trailer park and street sweeping date changes.

Good News! Residents of 600 block of Burleigh Avenue were successful in creating dead end street with new fencing. Neighbors worked together with civic league (Jim English, Martin Thomas, Sherry Romulus) and City Supervisors to "take the neighborhood back" from bad behavior and increasing foot traffic. The WCCL offered \$100 toward the supplies with neighbors contributing the remainder of cost.

Sherry Romulus questioned the recent mismanagement by City Manager Williams (Alphonso Albert fiasco), unfilled vacancies in police department and others, sluggish WC economic development. She calls for promised funding of the WC Comprehensive Plan. In the business area, Nutty Buddy has reopened, 2 businesses in NE corner have closed. An Exotic Rose store has opened. Each of us should recruit 10 WCCL members to build clout with Council to advance our WC interests.

There is always a need for newsletter delivery persons. 1000 copies are printed at cost of \$68.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Secretary