



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

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

April, 2008

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY April 17, 2008 6:45 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

Agenda

**CITY COUNCIL SUPERWARD
CANDIDATE FORUM
BARCLAY WINN, INCUMBENT
JACK STILES, CHALLENGER**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

We are at the beginning of spring and that brings with it warmer days, tree buds popping (and spring allergies), azaleas budding and blooming along with many other colorful flowers and plants. Now is the time we all are trying to get our yards and houses in shape for the seasonal activities. One thing that has always attracted me to our neighborhood is how great we as residents and property owners do in keeping up our property. This has been, continues to be and always will be one of the best and greatest neighborhoods in the city of Norfolk to live. I am always proud and glad when I return from wherever I have been to be home again in my Wards Corner neighborhood. We all must endeavor to keep our neighborhood this way despite the negative pressures being placed on the entire area by the blight that continues to persist to the east of us on Little Creek Road and in the business district.

But things are improving. Last month I wrote about a letter that was sent to the members of city council regarding Wards Corner urging them to do several things immediately. Well it seems that our stern voice was heard and now most of these issues are being addressed.

1. The revitalization plan for the Denby Park/Monticello Village/Oakdale Farms neighborhoods is now in the works and the MOU between the city of Norfolk and NRHA should be signed soon. This will enable more revitalization efforts to move forward for the property owners in those areas.
2. City Council has now approved the purchase of the three Alexis apartment buildings on W. Little Creek Road. These buildings should be torn down over the next few months.
3. The infrastructure is slowly being upgraded in the business district area. The new mast arm traffic signal lights are almost complete and should be operational soon. The utility line improvements are nearing completion on Burleigh, Maycox, North Shore and Newport. Hopefully, we will see repaving of these streets once that is complete. Look for more improvements in the business district area in the coming months.
4. The new Police Station is still in the plans for the central business park. We should see a new police station in a few years.

We are told that there are many developers interested in the area and that we should see some major project announcements soon in the business district and along E. Little Creek Road. We also see evidence of improvements in the Titustown area. Perhaps we have turned the corner on our efforts to reinvigorate the area. I remain optimistic, as I need a closer nice place to buy a shirt and tie like I use to be able to do in Wards Corner.

Finally, I have said this several times before. Many of us have been working with the Greater Wards Corner Partnership and its working group, the Wards Corner Task Force, for over 10 years. We have accomplished much in that time period and will continue to work in the future to improve the area despite this latest significant setback. However, since the voices of many carry a greater influence with our elected officials, I am asking that each of you consider becoming a part of these groups. The Greater Wards Corner Partnership

NOW meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Workforce Development Center. We discuss the issues relative to all of the citizens in the Greater Wards Corner Partnership area. Occasionally our elected officials join us. We have several committees and need more people willing to serve on each of these committees. The committees are as follows:

Codes and Public Safety Committee

-4th Tuesday of each month at 6:45pm at the Workforce Center

Development Committee

-2nd Friday of each month at 8:30am at the Fitness and Wellness Center

Beautification Committee

-2nd Tuesday of each month at 4pm at the Fitness and Wellness Center

Public Infrastructure Committee

Public Relations Committee

City Connection Committee

The Wards Corner Task Force also meets the second Thursday of every month at 8:30 AM at the Wellness Center. This working group of the Partnership meets with our city council representatives and city staffers to put into place our recommendations to help make improvements to the area. We are in need of more citizen representatives for each group to help us improve the entire area. Please consider coming to one or both of these meetings and joining one of the committees in addition to our regular civic league meetings the third Monday of every month at 7PM at the Wellness Center. The more of us there, the better and stronger our message.

This month's civic league is very important, as we will have the two candidates running for our City Council Superward seat. Please join us and hear what they have to say about improving Wards Corner. You can't complain if you do not participate.

Thanks and see you at the next meetings! Jim

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			<u>\$1559.82</u>
+ funds received	\$220.00		
-funds disbursed		\$120.25	
Ending Balance			<u>\$1654.57</u>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

March 17, 2008

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, March 17, 2008 at NFWC at 6:45PM. 30 members attended on this St Patrick's Day eve. After introductions, President Jim English led The Pledge of Allegiance. Ray Duron, Treasurer, and AdoptASpot Chair, announced an area "clean up" along Ruthven Rd. and W Little Creek Road on Saturday, March 29 at 8AM. Volunteers are needed. A member requested help for our Wards Corner's Business District deterioration.

State Delegate Kenneth Alexander reported on the General Assembly's latest work in Richmond which included a budget cut of 5% for localities, increased funding for mental health (veterans, brain injuries, psych disorders), seniors support services, consumer protection act and public safety. Delegate Paula Miller spoke on the Homestead Act, transportation, payday lending, senior tax relief, criminal gang problems, sexual assault and abuse, and a revamped accessible Capitol Building. Senator Ralph Northam addressed the Homestead Act, smoking ban in restaurants, the environment and redistricting. Questions of outsourcing, business objections to the Homestead Act, VA Port Authority, tolls, fees for transportation relief, decreased funding for the arts, payday lending, and housing market slowdown were addressed.

PACE Officer Curtis Jackson reported for our area: an increase in car break ins for GPS and IPODS, 6 larcenies from vehicles, stolen license plates, 2 vandalisms, 1 commercial burglary and 2 stolen vehicles.

President English encouraged members to become involved in the WC Partnership meeting held 7PM-8PM each fourth Thursday in the Workforce Development Center near Kroger's and he announced an April 21 Forum with speakers, Councilman Barclay Winn and opponent Jack Stiles. City Council elections will be held this May. Jim, reporting for the WC Taskforce and WC Partnership, stated 1) City Council's purchase of the Alexis Apartments in Titustown to increase the parking lot size of the Recreation Center, 2) expectations for economic development in the Denby Park area and an impending hotel deal, and 3) the likelihood of a CVS Pharmacy at the BP station site. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan Griffey, Secretary

**Wards Corner information is available at our website-
www.wardscorner.com. News of our larger community
can be found at www.wardscornernow.com**

THINK GREEN

Are you trying to be more environmentally responsible? Call 441-1347 or check out www.norfolkbeautiful.org for tips. You can receive information about recycling electronics, wooden pallets and other things not accepted in your blue cart.

Norfolk Electronics Recycling Day will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 8AM-4PM. Those old radios, TVs, printers, phones, toasters, microwaves, etc. can be dropped off in the WHRO/ODU Parking Lot at Hampton Boulevard and 49th Street.

Did you know that old clothes and shoes can be recycled too? There are a number of 24-hour drop-off locations that accept old clothing and shoes, even if they're no longer wearable. These are collected to be reused and recycled by foreign markets.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	831-3484
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	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)

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 2008, 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 _____

NEWS AND NOTES

If you have some old worn and tattered US Flags, please bring them in to our civic league meetings so they can be disposed of properly. Boy Scout Troop 180 will dispose of them. See Ray Duron for info.

Thanks to our Wards Corner Adopt-A-Spot volunteers who helped in our continued efforts to "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" on the March 29th clean-up. They were Brian Enrich, Stephanie Gallagher and our Adopt -A-Spot leaders, Ray and Betty Duron.

BICYCLE AND SCOOTER SAFETY CLINIC

Saturday, May 3, 2008

11:00AM-2:00 PM

Lafayette Park (next to Zoo Administration building)

Free Bicycle Helmets while supply lasts

Program Includes:

Bike inspection and registration with Norfolk Police Department., prizes (including new bikes), musical entertainment and children's games, Ident-A-Kid, K-9 demonstration, Norfolk Tides Rip-Tide.

Call 441-1035 for more details.

Did you know that Norfolk Code requires that your bicycle be registered? It is unlawful for any person over the age of 18 years who resides in the city, to operate or use a bicycle upon any sidewalk..., or for any parent to allow a person under the age of 18 years to use a bicycle... unless it has been properly registered. (Code 1958, section 8-2.)