



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

October, 2008

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING
MONDAY
October 20, 2008
6:45 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

Lisa Renee Jennings

Environment/Green Interior Decorator
and Home "Greening" Consultant
Congressman Bobby Scott also invited

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

I am pleased to announce that Sue Classick has stepped forward to serve as Vice President of our Civic League. This office oversees the distribution of our newsletter to our carriers. The military brought Sue and her family here 31 years ago, and she is still living in the same home. She loves this area. She works part-time for American Greetings, and three of her stores are in the neighborhood. She spreads her free time around several volunteer areas. Please come to the next meeting so we can vote her into this important position. Nominations will also be taken from the floor prior to election of this office.

I reported last month that the city's Division of Transportation has begun the traffic calming initiatives that we have been waiting for on Newport Ave. Perhaps you have noticed the white parking lines on both sides of Newport from Little Creek Road to Kingsley Lane. These are the first attempts to slow the speeding traffic that has been such a problem on Newport Ave. I recently met with Jim McDonald, President of the Talbot Park Civic League, and Guzin Akan, City Traffic Engineer, concerning additional future traffic calming methods. We agreed on the next steps for traffic calming. Look for

additional traffic slowing street markings at North Shore Rd. and Newport Ave. followed by a series of raised bumps within that street marking area. These will also be installed further down Newport Ave. at Talbot Park Rd. In addition to this, the area in front of Granby Elementary will also be further improved to slow traffic in that problem area.

Progress is finally being made in the Greater Wards Corner area, particularly in the Denby Park, Oakdale Farms and Monticello Village neighborhoods to the east of our civic league. The Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority and The City of Norfolk recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin the much needed housing revitalization effort in that area. However, it has not been decided how they will administer \$1,000,000 in grants to Denby Park, Monticello Village and Oakdale Farms homeowners. They also don't know when the money will become available. However when that happens, the grants to homeowners will include the following three types of grants and loan programs: The Home Rehabilitation Grants - \$400,000 to help eight homeowners; The Residential Facade and Improvement - \$125,000 for five multi-family buildings; \$300,000 for 20 homeowners for the Home Addition Program, and up to \$100,000 for four homeowners. The Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority will receive \$75,000 of the money for administering the funds. This is an important first start toward development as it begins a continuing effort to rid the blight in that area that has been producing a negative impact on the entire Greater Wards Corner area. As these homes and properties are rehabilitated, it will hopefully lead toward more sustained economic development in the entire area and a better quality of life for those residents living there as well as an improved Greater Wards Corner area. The map at the end of my message illustrates the affected area.

Finally, before you receive the next newsletter in November we will have elected a new US President and Vice President. I don't know about you, but I have been voting in elections for 40 years. In those elections over 40 years, none has been and could not be as important for our country as this election. It is vitally important for us to thoroughly examine the most important issues to us and our Nation and for each of us to elect the person who most represents those issues and whom we think

will lead us successfully for the next 4 and perhaps 8 years. My view is that this country is in a huge mess from many fronts nationally and has little respect internationally like we once had in the world. We need a profoundly effective leader who will bring back prosperity to Americans that we once had and respect for America from the rest of the world. Who that will be is for all of us to decide. Please vote on election day for the person you believe is most likely to restore that dignity and prosperity to America.

Thanks and hope to see you at the next civic league meeting.



Jim English

CLEANING UP WARDS CORNER

Norfolk announced Thursday that three neighborhoods – Denby Park, Monticello Village and Oakdale Farms – with 2,100 homes will be designated special services areas, eligible for loans and grants. \$1 million has been set aside to help fix blight.



SOURCES: City of Norfolk; ESRI, Tele Atlas

VP

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1610.42
+ funds received	\$125.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1667.17

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	402-8583
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution	Sue Classick	489-2315
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)

News and Notes

Time to Clean your Attic!

The Norfolk Senior Center(at the Fitness and Wellness Center) is holding a Flea Market on Friday, October 24, 12-5 PM and Saturday, October 25, 8:30 AM to 1 PM. Reserve a table by calling Chantel Randolph at 625-5857 by October 22. If you don't have anything to sell, come to buy!

And, don't forget, your help is needed to pick up litter at our Adopt-A-Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek Roads) on Saturday, November 22, 8:00 AM. Questions-call Ray Duron at 423-4337.

Have You Heard?

The Wards Corner Civic League now has an email list being run through i-neighbors.org. What is it, you ask. "i-neighbors is a social networking service that connects residents of geographic neighborhoods. Unlike websites that encourage global, national, or city-wide communication, i-neighbors links members of local neighborhoods as defined by the people that create them. i-neighbors helps individuals, communities, and homeowner's associations build social capital by providing a place for neighbors to find each other, organize, share information and work together to address local problems. Our goal is to help people create neighborhoods that are safer, better informed, more trusting, and better equipped to deal with local issues. Founded in 2004 as a not-for-profit, advertising, and SPAM free service, i-neighbors now supports thousands of neighborhoods in all 50 of the United States and all 10 Canadian provinces." This introduction to i-neighbors was taken from their link on the Wards Corner website-www.wardscorner.com. Take some time to look at our website, review the i-neighbors link, and consider joining (it's easy).

HELPPPP!!!!

Do you read this newsletter? Do you attend the Civic League meetings? Life keeps us all busy, but there are many volunteers from your neighborhood who perform various activities that make our area a great place to live. There are always ways you can help, even if it's just for a couple hours every few months (cleaning our Adopt-a-Spot), an hour or two on a monthly basis to help deliver newsletters, or even just by picking up litter as you walk around your home or block.

Another very important way is to pay your annual dues. Even if you're not able to attend meetings, please send a check for \$5.00 to Ray Duron (\$10/two household members). This helps support payments for our newsletter printing and other expenses that arise throughout the year. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you are a continuing member, it's time to think of renewing for 2009. Ray's address is 530 Sterling Street, 23505. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE MINUTES

September 15, 2008

Wards Corner Civic League met Mon., Sept. 15, 2008 in Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center. The meeting was opened at 6:45PM by Pres. Jim English who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He acknowledged a few new members plus Harriette Frost, a Partnership Board member. -Our program, titled 'improving communication efficiency via the newsletter and electronic media' was addressed by Martin Thomas, Jr. and Pres. Jim. The newsletter is printed and delivered to nearly 1000 residents by 30 volunteers. Those having access to the Internet may keep informed with Wards Corner 23505@ I - Neighbor.org (a new citizen's website). Users can type complaints, successes, neighborhood watch, send

pictures, list events, etc. Though Police can monitor, it does not replace 911. Wards Corner Now.com is a 1 yr. old website (200 visits /day) for our 20 civic leagues-boundary area (Tidewater Dr. to Hampton Blvd.) Here are updated news articles, reports from Taskforce and Partnership, committee meetings, times, links, archives and civic leaguers' comments. Norfolk.gov is the city website (Ex. mayor@norfolk.gov) to find GIS inter-active maps, code violation reports, health inspections. -Officer Curtis Jackson (831-3484) responded to questions of a juvenile shooting on Grantham, yard intruders, the ownership of the deteriorating fence end of Burleigh.

-Pres. Jim explained a Special Service District designation. NRHA frees monies for rehab, infrastructure, low interest grants, matching funds, etc. The beautiful new playground in Denby Park was built by 800 volunteers. The old trailer park near Southern Shopping Center is being rebuilt with condos. The Comprehensive Plan for Wards Corner is 6 yrs. old. Bon Secours Hospital under political and citizen's pressure, is redesigning its plans. Newport Ave. has newly painted areas for parking to calm speeding. The limit is 25mph but the average is 39mph. Alexis Apts. in Titustown are to be demolished to make space for parking at the Recreation center. Ken Easley continues his building renovations near Albano Cleaners on W Little Creek Road. Plans are for 1st floor retail and 2nd floor apartments or business rentals. Workforce Center/Kroger's is under new ownership. Resurfacing of Little Creek Road and Granby St. will commence and finally include new brick imprint crosswalks. 8AM, Oct.11, is scheduled for AdoptASpot Clean Up on Ruthven Rd/W Little Creek Rd. Ray and Betty Duron are leaders. Volunteers are needed. The Martone Property is not renewing leases. There are 8-9 empty storefronts (newspaper labeled it a 'dead zone'). A volunteer is asked to join the Board and take responsibility for distribution of our newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan Griffey, Sec'y

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

