



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

**SERVING: COLONY POINT, HARMON GARDENS, MERRIDALE, PINEHURST,
RESIMERE, ROSE GARDENS, SUSSEX OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA GARDENS AND
WEXFORD TERRACE**

JANUARY, 2009 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

**February 23, 2009
6:45 PM**

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

Agenda

**Greg Underwood-Candidate for
Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney's
Office
Representative from Northside
Civic League-Mason Creek**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

Well, just last week Mayor Fraim delivered his State of the City address for 2008. The following are quotes from that address.

"Good signs of progress can be seen in the Greater Wards Corner area from a combination of public and private investments and support from residents. The Alexis Apartments in Titustown were acquired and demolished. New crosswalks were installed at Little Creek Road and Granby Street. The first units of the \$15 million Southwind Apartments are nearly ready for occupancy, and Collins Enterprises is moving ahead on Phase I of Westport, its \$80 million residential development on Newport Avenue.

In Denby Park, a community playground was built in one day with help from 400 volunteers. Public security cameras were installed. And in a remarkable show of civic engagement, a neighborhood watch was started for the Denby Park, Oakdale Farms and Monticello Village neighborhoods with 60 residents participating, all helping to reduce the crime rate.

We are also encouraged by the purchase of the 14-acre parcel where the city's Workforce Development Center is located, and our development team reports promising, ongoing discussions with property owners of an eight-acre parcel in the heart of Wards Corner for a mixed-use development."

As I wrote last year when Mayor Fraim mentioned Wards Corner in his address, we are again certainly pleased that he has included Wards Corner in this year's State of the City address and wish to thank him for mentioning the area. I know I have asked him on several occasions to do that, which he now continues to do on a yearly basis in his address. We can only hope that his continued mention of the private development improvements in the area would stimulate more economic development for the entire Greater Wards Corner area. Hopefully those listening to his address will gain an interest in the development potential for the area. We also hope that the rest of city council continues to fund efforts to bring this area back to life. The mention of these projects is a good thing but those of us who live here have known about these for some time since these projects began.

What was not mentioned is the \$1 million dollar program being funded by the NRHA to help revitalize three neighborhoods in the area: Denby Park, Monticello Village and Oakdale Farms. This is indeed great news for those very neglected areas and hopefully the enthusiasm expressed by many of the residents at a town hall meeting held recently will spark the homeowners into taking advantage of these programs. This will help us all. Please read all about this and other points of interest at www.WardsCornerNow.com.

Wards Corner is the Gateway to downtown and it should not look blighted and an eyesore like the property in the Northeast corner of the business district that is now almost completely vacant. The owner of that property should do the right thing and either sell it or revitalize it. The residents of the area are tired of looking at this blemish to the area. Let's hope that our city's elected officials take note of the potential tax revenue being lost in the area because of this blight and push harder for more upscale development and begin to immediately put more effort into revitalizing the area.

The citizens of Norfolk deserve it and the residents of the Greater Wards Corner Area certainly deserve better treatment for our neighborhoods.

Despite the serious economic issues facing our country, state and city, we must all be involved in continuing to push for what we want the city to do for our area. Rest assured money will continue to pour into downtown and Ocean View. We need to have much needed projects funded in Wards Corner as well. The voices of us all are heard louder than the voices of the few. Get involved, join the civic league, and participate with your voice and vote. Let us hope that we will see more action behind these words from our representatives on council to indeed put more effort into revitalizing the Wards Corner area.

Another issue that needs mentioning here is an upcoming important but very little publicized election that will be held on March 10th. This election is a very surprising best-kept secret from Norfolk citizens. This election is for the Commonwealth Attorney for Norfolk. This extremely important constitutional office serves us all by representing the citizens of Norfolk against alleged criminals coming before Norfolk Courts. The office works closely with the police and Norfolk City attorneys' office in prosecuting the bad guys. We cannot take this office lightly and need to get out and vote. Two people are running for this office. Greg Underwood is the Democratic candidate and currently a prosecutor in the Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney's office. You may read about him at <http://www.gregunderwood.com>. John A. Coggeshall is the Republican candidate and a private defense attorney. Read about him at <http://www.johncog.com/>. John Coggeshall was at our January meeting and Greg Underwood will visit us at our February 23rd meeting. Please join us. I would also urge you to read the candidate's websites, make a decision who you think is the best choice and VOTE on MARCH 10th. This is too important not to vote.

Thanks and my best to you all, Jim

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
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

Please note that our February meeting is postponed one week because of the holiday. It will be held on February 23.

Join us!! Your help is needed to pick up litter at our Adopt-A-Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek Roads) on Saturday, March 28, 8:00 AM. Questions-call Ray Duron at 423-4337.

**Here's another opportunity to help your community-
 March 28th marks the kickoff of the 2009 Great American Clean-Up. Join us on the 28th as members of our Wards Corner Community come together to Clean Our Corner!**

Meet for coffee, fruit & pastries from 8:30-9:00 AM at North Shore Sports & Physical Therapy, 7419 Granby Street (next to ATC Fitness). Litter pick-up and beautification begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 11:30 AM.

Please RSVP to Laura at 489-5820. Trash bags, gloves, safety vests and bottled water will be provided. All participants will be eligible to win GAC prizes!

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1756.52
+ funds received	\$250.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1938.27

WCCL Membership

We now have over 100 people who have paid their dues! Help your Civic League by paying 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 #: _____

e-mail _____

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes 17 January 2009

Wards Corner Civic League met at 6:45PM on Monday, January 17, 2009 in the NFW Center. President Jim English led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Coggeshall, candidate in the March 10 election for Commonwealth Attorney, introduced himself. He provided informational brochures and asked for our support. He reminded us that FBI stats for Norfolk showed an increase in robberies, property crime, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicles. Bob Vitek, Northside Civic League, asked that we support their requests for help with Granby Street/ Mason Creek flooding site near I 64 E. Environmental issues of wetlands and drainage, the cost of elevating Granby Street, and evacuation route readiness all impact the willingness of the city to act.

Elections of Officers for 2009-10 took place. No floor nominations were made. The present slate of officers was elected by acclamation. These are: President Jim English, 1st Vice President Martin Thomas, Jr., 2nd Vice President and Newsletter Distribution Sue Classick, Secretary Joan Griffey, and Treasurer Ray Duron. Barbara Ross remains Newsletter Editor.

President English reported that the Newport Avenue traffic calming public hearing would meet on February 2 at 6:30PM. The one way sign on Grantham Ave./WLC Road is not being enforced and needs attention. Sherry Romulus asked if the neighborhood plans would be affected by this economic downturn. The PACE officer was absent due to a conflict.

Taskforce update: 13 WLC Road non thriving trees were replaced in Titus town; 2 of the 8 holiday wreaths decorating the neighborhood signs are missing; the Burleigh Ave. fence is recently damaged; 4 home robberies occurred on Meads Road, Bradford Ave. and Ruthven Rd.; the 7-11 store fencing and litter is an issue. There are 21 empty storefronts in the business area. Les Demmin, Infrastructure Comm., spoke about the overuse and overcapacity of trucks using Hampton Blvd., I 64, and HRBT. The new Southwinds Apartments (trailer park former site) are open for occupancy. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan Griffey, Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS

On January 31, 2009, Mr. Ray Duron, our WCCL treasurer, was awarded the District Award of Merit at a Powhatan District dinner, Boy Scouts of America. This Distinguished District Award of Merit is the highest honor that a district can bestow upon one of its scouters. The award is made annually. The nominee must be a registered scouter, and must have rendered noteworthy service to scouts over an extended time. The nature and value of "noteworthy service" may consist of a single plan or action that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth, or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time to youth in and outside of scouting.

Ray has devoted countless hours over the years to scouting and certainly deserves this recognition.

Please extend your congratulations to Ray when you see him at our meetings where he performs the Treasurer's duties, or perhaps when he is working at our "Adopt-a-Spot" area to help beautify our neighborhood. He gives 100% to everything he does, and we're happy he has received this honor.