



## WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

# CROSSROADS

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

**May 2009**

Web site [www.Wardscorner.com](http://www.Wardscorner.com)

### **CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**May 18, 2009**

**6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS  
CENTER**

#### **Agenda**

**Barclay Winn, Don Williams  
Norfolk City Councilmen**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Jim English [ajim.english@gmail.com](mailto:ajim.english@gmail.com)

Dear Neighbors,

I don't know if you are as fired up and frustrated as I am about what I see happening in the Greater Wards Corner area lately, but I believe you should be. This area needs attention immediately before things get worse. Summer is almost here and given the rash of criminal activity in the area recently, I am very concerned that this will only get worse as the summertime progresses.

At the May civic league meeting **Councilmen Barclay Winn and Don Williams** will be present to speak to us. This is the first time in many months that they will be joining us. I have asked them to update us on Wards Corner and where they see the revitalization efforts going in the short and long term. I have also asked Don Williams to brief us on SPSA and our trash collection policy for Norfolk. Many of us have been at this revitalization effort for over 10 years now and while there have been some improvements over those many years, those efforts have seen to have slowed or even stopped. Quite frankly, I am getting fed up with up with this inaction and especially with our city leaders who represent us. We have a comprehensive plan, studies have been done and recommendations have been made for the Greater Wards Corner area improvement. It seems now that the city is not following that plan and consequently we are beyond the point where we should be questioning this action and why things are not

improving. The recent rash of murders, shootings and home invasions in the Wards Corner area or near us is indicative that we are going nowhere with improving the area and perhaps even moving backward. The overall crime rate has been increasing with most of that due to robbery and burglary in the area. Please understand this is not a criticism of the police as they can only do so much given the resources they are allotted for our area. But that is the point, we need to shout loud and clear that more of the city's resources should be allocated for the Wards Corner area. Every day and or night when I drive by the property in the northeast corner of the business district (you know which one I am referring to) I get more and more disgusted seeing all of the empty parking lot spaces and vacant store fronts. Last week when I drove by Nutty Buddies I saw several transvestites plying their trade walking up and down the sidewalk in front of that unwelcome establishment. This entire area is beginning to look like the other declining areas of the city of a few years ago before they received assistance from the city. Of course, those areas are Ocean View, Broad Creek and Downtown. Our area is beginning to look like a ghost town. This is beyond ridiculous and totally unacceptable. We need things to start improving immediately.

I don't like to be negative when I write these articles and I try not to be. However, my intention is to try to fire you up to speak out about what is **not** happening in our area. We have been patient, cordial and accepting of the assistance we have gotten from the city and support we have received from our elected city leaders over the past years. But for whatever reason we are not moving forward now or if we are it is not fast enough.

I would ask all of you to attend our next civic league meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:45PM at the Wellness Center and challenge our councilmen with your questions as to what they are doing for our area. We should be civil but tough. They need to hear from us that we are fed up with the lack of progress in the area. Also, please get involved with our efforts, as we need many voices to get the improved outcomes we desire.

Thank you for letting me vent my frustrations and I hope to see you at our next meeting.  
Jim English

## ***Wards Corner Civic League Minutes***

April 20, 2009

Wards Corner Civic League met at 6:45PM on Monday, April 20, 2009 in NFW Center. President Jim English opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed new members.

-Officer Curtis Jackson (831-3484) (noting his 25<sup>th</sup> year with police) , responded to inquiries of personal safety position availability, parking on lawns (W Little Creek Road) as code enforcement issue, gang prevention, shooting incident at Maycox/Cedar Level Rd., citizen safety and security in the business district, the March 7/11 robbery, car break-ins, vandalism. Police investigated 911 calls on North Shore Rd., Doris, Colonial, Bradford, Birmingham, and Ogden. Vehicle GPS are coveted items.

-Sharon McDonald, guest speaker, was elected as Norfolk Commissioner of the Revenue, and began her career in Colonial Place CL, stayed vocal with city administration and Council and is currently one of 5 constitutional officers in VA. Her office has 50 employees. Her office collects taxes appropriated on entertainment (meals, admissions), lodging, cigarettes, short term (movies, tuxedos), property (rec vehicles, autos, boat, trailer, and cycles), businesses (restaurants, salons, professionals), and fees for yard sale and residential parking permits. It assists state income tax preparation, advises senior's tax relief program, and provides DMV services at City Hall (titles, registration, dealer title, voter registration). Ms. McDonald answered questions of delinquency rates, Southern Shopping increasing revenues compared to Wards Corner declining revenue, and meal tax differentials. She can be reached by e-mail ([www.norfolk.gov/revenue](http://www.norfolk.gov/revenue)) or phone (664-7884).

-Pres. English reported that ongoing traffic calming situation on Newport Ave. may result in stop signs at Harvard, North Shore, Talbot Hall, and Kingsley.

-Questions ensued with issues of repaving, overgrown trees, visibility of traffic light at North Shore Rd., and unsafe elementary school parking. The Grantham Ave. one way traffic sign is regularly being ignored. April is pothole month...please call 664-6510.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Griffey, Sec'y

## **WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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)

### **WCCL MEMBERSHIP**

***We're on a Roll!!!! Our membership has now reached 105!! (that's 5 new members since last month!)***

*Although we're thrilled with the increase, it's only about 10% of our potential membership. We deliver over 900 newsletters each month to the homes in our Civic League area, and hope all who read it will consider joining.*

*Thanks to those who have sent their check for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members) to Ray Duron.*

*Let's challenge ourselves to 10 new members this month. Ask your neighbors to join.*

*Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you are a continuing member, it's not too late to renew for 2009. Ray's address is 530 Sterling Street, 23505.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pxone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

### **News and Notes**

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**Celebration of Older Americans Month**  
**On Thursday, May 21, from 9 AM-2 PM, an Open House will be held at the Norfolk Senior Center, 7300 Newport Avenue. This event is sponsored by Primeplus, which offers a wide variety of classes in the Active Adult Programs, and respite care in their Adult Day Services. There will be refreshments, door prizes, tours, class demonstrations, speakers and the computer learning center with coaches. RSVP to 625-5857. Pick up a flyer at our civic league meeting, and you'll receive a \$10 savings on a new membership.**

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**Join Us!! Your help is needed to pick up litter at our Adopt-A Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek Roads) on Saturday, May 23, 8:00 AM. Questions-call Ray Duron at 423-4337.**

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**Can you donate 30-45 minutes/month to your Civic League? We need some people to deliver newsletters on two streets north of Little Creek Road. The streets are Sheryl and Sterling. Please contact Sue Classick, our VP in charge of Newsletter Distribution, at 489-2315. It's good exercise, it helps you meet your neighbors and get a new perspective on your neighborhood, and it's so appreciated by those who enjoy receiving the news about our community.**

### **GOOD NEIGHBOR CHECK LIST**

- Be sure your house number is visible from the street (for emergency vehicles)
- Bring trash cans from the street in a timely manner
- Keep animals on leashes at all times
- Tell your neighbors about the e-mail updates
- Volunteer for the Civic League Board
- Write an article for the June newsletter
- Attend the next Civic League meeting which is May 18 at 6:45 PM
- Pay your Civic League dues today
- Be alert to things happening on your street or in your neighborhood-watch for anything unusual or out of the ordinary, and call the police (441-5610) about suspicious activity.

### **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			\$1951.67
+ funds received	\$40.00		
-funds disbursed		\$77.70	
Ending Balance			\$1,913.97

### **Persistence Pays**

***Because some members of the WCCL aren't happy with the status quo and have routinely lobbied for improvements in our area, there are four new, attractive trash cans slated for installation in the business area. In addition, these members have also asked for other beautification efforts and as a result, 12-14 large cement planters (36 inches in diameter) will be placed throughout the area. They will be planted with low-maintenance, but attractive shrubs or flowers, and should be a highlight in an area which appears to be moving towards more and more neglect.***

***This group also has managed to have the disreputable green vinyl removed from the fence by the 7-11 store.***

***We appreciate their continued efforts on behalf of Wards Corner.***

***A few dedicated people, working together toward a goal, can make a difference.***

***What could happen if 50 (or more) of us would demand change in the Wards Corner area from our City Leaders?***