



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

April 2010 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

**April 19, 2010
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

**Agenda
Council Candidates Forum
Dawn Hester will visit**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

This is the last newsletter before the city council elections in May. This year is probably the most important election year for city council elections that I can remember. It is extremely important that you get out and vote for the candidate you believe will be the best person to support and represent Wards Corner and make it their top priority. While some may criticize me for my position, I have made my choice known to you in the last newsletter. Andy Protogyrou is the only candidate that actually lives in our Wards Corner area and has made it very clear that his top priority is in the redevelopment of Wards Corner. He is working very hard on his campaign and I believe deserves to represent us as our next Ward 1 City Council representative. While the other candidates are fine people, they do not live in Wards Corner, although they say that it is a top priority of theirs also. They live in Ocean View. Please take note of the Wards 1 candidate responses to the survey that will be completed and posted on www.WardsCornerNow.com on April 11th. Please also take note of the Mayoral Candidate Survey that was conducted by Suburban Acres Civic League and is also posted on the Wards Corner Now website at this time. I also believe that our current Mayor should be reelected for another term. I do believe we have gotten his attention in Wards Corner and he will be an advocate for us more so than the other candidates running for Mayor this year.

Regardless of whether you agree with me or not,
PLEASE VOTE on May 4th for who you believe will best

represent Wards Corner and the city of Norfolk. If you don't vote you can't complain about the results.

Another important issue is the US Census that is currently underway. According to a recent report in the *Virginian Pilot*, "Chesapeake and Suffolk lead in Hampton Roads for census participation, with 62 percent of the estimated population participating so far, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's ahead of the current 54 percent national participation rate and 60 percent state rate. In the region, Virginia Beach and Portsmouth follow at 58 percent with **Norfolk last at 53 percent.**

Officials want you to be able to identify sworn census takers when they begin their door-to-door work in Hampton Roads neighborhoods. Workers will wear badges marked with the names of the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census Bureau. Some workers also may carry a black bag with the bureau's name on it, a news release says. Badges also will carry the worker's name. Workers also will provide their supervisor's contact information and the number to the census office upon request.

The workers will ask only questions that appear on the 2010 form, the release says. They won't ask for donations or request your bank account, Social Security or credit card numbers. Census employees also won't ask how much money is inside your home or about your citizenship status. The bureau's workers won't contact anyone by e-mail, but it is possible that someone will call, they said. Census workers take an oath of confidentiality and can face a penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if they violate it, according to the bureau. The agency mailed about 130 million forms to homes across the country. Most of the door-to-door census work will begin on May 1. Work already has begun in some rural areas and mountain and beach resorts.

Being counted is extremely important for all of us. It determines how many dollars come back to us from the Federal Government for needed programs and how many federal and state elected members we can send to Washington or Richmond to represent our area. If we don't have accurate numbers of who really lives here, we stand to lose money and representation. Much is at stake and it is important to do this civic duty. So please complete your census form and mail it in. Tell your friends and neighbors to do the same. Stand up and be counted. For more information on the Census and Norfolk please go to: <http://www.norfolk.gov/census2010/default.asp>.

Next year the Virginia General Assembly will begin redistricting the State of Virginia for its representatives to the House and Senate. The last time it was done, Norfolk lost out partly because of our diminished population. This is another

reason that we need to have an accurate count of how many people live in Norfolk as we cannot afford to lose any of our representatives to the Virginia General Assembly from Norfolk. We need all of the advocates for Norfolk in Richmond that we can get. It again means dollars to us.

As we round out the first half of the civic league year we hope to have the City Manager meet with us in May and a representative from the Norfolk School System meet with us in June. Finally, I hope you can attend our Ward 1 candidate forum on Monday April 19th at 6:45 PM at the Norfolk Wellness Center. That way you can really make up your mind who to vote for in the May 4th election.

Thanks and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2218.84
+ funds received	\$195.00		
- funds disbursed		\$82.95	
Ending Balance			\$2330.89

WCCL Membership

We have 93 paid members in our civic league. Are you one of them?

Membership in your civic league is a bargain for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members). Send your check to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31.

If you are a continuing member, please renew for 2010. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and e-mail:

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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
Police Emergency	911

Monthly Home Maintenance

from the Virginian-Pilot February 13, 2010

As the weather is getting warmer, here are a few suggestions to keep your home in shape.

-Reverse ceiling fan blades-they should have been blowing upward during the winter-and clean tops of fan blades.

-Check to be sure winter wind hasn't lifted vinyl and aluminum siding, and repair as needed.

-Wash siding and gutters with similar solution. You'll have fewer streaks if you start at the bottom.

NEWS AND NOTES

Thanks to the folks from the Sussex area for participating in the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, March 27. Members Stephanie Gallagher, Shawna Gallagher, Robert Lester, and Ray and Betty Duron picked up 18 bags of litter, a hubcap, and a discarded dog carrier, plus some tree branches from the area near the mailbox at the corner of Ruthven and Grantham Roads.

Just a reminder that our City Council and Mayoral Election will be Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Your vote counts!!

We hope to have a speaker from the City Manager's Office in May to address the city budget. All who attend will be eligible for a \$25 door prize-a restaurant gift certificate.

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

March 15, 2010

Wards Corner Civic League met in Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 6:45PM. President Jim English led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed invited speakers and guests: Delegates Ken Alexander and Paula Miller, Senator Dr. Ralph Northam, Candidates for City Council : Barbara Saunders, Andrew Protogyrou and Chuck Brewer and Boy Scout Troop 180 from Wesley Memorial Methodist Church attending for Citizen Community Merit Badge credit.

Officer Jackson gave a brief crime report of increased car larcenies and stolen vehicles.

Delegate Alexander (628 1000) reported the state budget was cut with decreased revenues, but fees are being added for public safety. He introduced bills HB203: giving compensation for persons wrongfully incarcerated; HB207: establishing a uniform procedure in police lineups; HB204: prohibits telecommunication providers from adding services to bill without customer's authorization; and HB215: prevents campaign vendors from falsifying caller ID.

Delegate Miller (587 8757) distributed Legislative Directories. She addressed the State Budget, cuts to public safety, gang violence, guns, Voter ID, Veteran benefits, tax exemptions, revenue stabilization fund, and car title bill.

Senator Dr. Northam stated, in praise of his colleagues, good leaders make good government. With \$7 billion cut from 2007-2010 budgets, and no raise in tax structure, monies are not available for wants. He addressed Health Care cuts, but was optimistic about CHKD (53% Medicaid), DePaul and Lake Taylor Hospitals. He co-patroned a nonpartisan districting plan, addressed "incumbent protection", the menhaden fishing industry and athletes head concussion bill. All three answered questions from attendees concerning economic stimulus money, No Child Left Behind

Program, Teachers Union performance pay, costs of education, ethics bill, aid to localities, lottery, PreK, increase in sales tax, VDOT funding, transportation revenue/taxes and redistricting.

President English reminded us of the Great American Cleanup on March 27 in Wards Corner and at our Adopt a Spot on Ruthven Rd and W. Little Creek Rd. Reporting on the Taskforce, Jim stated that the city will identify property in Denby Park for possible purchase, the Perry property will be making improvements, the area is ripe for a possible hotel, the drainage ditch at RR tracks near McDonald's and Wendy's will be serviced soon, the planters are still being pursued for the Business District. Kudos to Webmaster Martin Thomas, Jr for keeping us informed via Email. A new group has formed (wardscornernow.com) which will meet on the 3rd Saturday monthly in this Fitness Center at 8:30AM. This is an election year (May 4) and a candidate (18) forum will be held at Granby High School on April 8 from 7-9 PM. Our civic league will hold a Meet Your Candidate forum on April 19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Sec'y

MEDICINE DISPOSAL

from the Norfolk Civic Connection

Dispose of unused medications in your trash can rather than flushing them down the toilet or sink. Sewage treatment plants can't remove all chemicals and when pharmaceuticals are in the outflow, they harm marine life. Male fish, for example, are becoming female fish because of drug contaminants in the waterways. Follow these procedures recommended by the EPA:

1. Keep medicine in its original container, scratching out the patient's name.
2. Check whether your community offers a prescription-drug disposal program (Norfolk does not).
3. Modify drugs to discourage consumption by adding a small amount of liquid to pills and adding salt, charcoal or spices to liquids.
4. Seal the container shut with strong tape.
5. Place it in a non-transparent bag (don't hide it in food products).
6. Discard it as close to the scheduled garbage pickup time as possible.