



## Wards Corner Civic League

# Crossroads

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

**May 2010    Web site   [www.Wardscorner.com](http://www.Wardscorner.com)**

### **CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY**

**May 17, 2010  
6:45 PM**

### **NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER**

#### **Agenda**

**Regina Williams, City Manager  
2010-2011 City Budget**

**Andy Protogyrou,  
Elected Ward 1 Councilman**

**Door Prize Awarded  
Gift Certificate**

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

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

Dear Neighbors,

It is 10:00PM May 4<sup>th</sup> election night as I write this message to you. I have just returned from the Andy Protogyrou campaign victory party where a gathering of his supporters joined in the celebration of his election win to Ward 1 as our new city councilman. It has been a long campaign and he has received about 52% of the vote in the Ward. He won 60% of the vote at Granby Elementary. To his challengers, we thank you for running for this seat and I wish you well. To all of you who came out and voted, thank you no matter who you voted for. The total number of votes at Granby Elementary was just over 800, a really good showing for this very important election. To Andy Protogyrou, thank you for stepping forward to run when asked. I also thank your family for letting you enter into this race. You ran a good, positive and gentlemanly campaign and we all appreciate it. We expect much from you and we

know you will deliver. While your official job starts July 1 we know you have already hit the ground running to begin the makeover of Wards Corner. May you be blessed with good fortune as you begin representing your constituents in Ward 1.

On other notes, I receive numerous pieces of mail from the city each week. I pass on most of this information to our executive committee and newsletter editor for their information and publishing in the monthly newsletter. Two publications that I received in the last couple of weeks caught my attention and point to yet more signs that the city is beginning to give more attention to Wards Corner.

The first was the City Managers budget presentation to City Council on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It is entitled "Core Values, Core Services". It is indeed a tough budget to read. The total balanced budget presented for city council consideration is \$1,144,454,378.00. It requires closing a base budget preliminary gap of \$36,000,000.00. This is huge and obviously tough to do without serious cuts and/or finding ways to get more revenue streams into the city. To do this, the budget balancing strategies were guided by the community's core values and reasonably funding core services. The good news here is that the proposed budget does not include any increase in the Real Estate Rate of the \$1.11 per 100 assessed value, yet at the same time is dropping the assessments of property. This will mean a reduction of the average property tax bill by \$118.00. The bad news includes increases in fees for service and significant reductions in the city workforce including 85 currently filled positions. There is no question that this is a tough budget for city council to consider and ultimately pass. Revisions are almost certain but just what they are remains to be seen.

Another part of that budget is the Capital Improvement Plan. In it, the city manager has allotted \$6.6 million for Neighborhoods. Here is where Wards Corner comes in the picture. For the first time in years the allotment for Wards Corner is not at the bottom and in fact comes in only second to Fairmont Park and behind the Broad Creek and Southside neighborhood plans. Of the \$6.6 million our CIP budget amount is \$1,767,500.00. I view this as very positive and an indication that Wards Corner is finally getting the

attention of City Hall. Of course where all of this will finally fall out when city council approves the budget is uncertain, but I don't think Wards Corner will take a hit from city council. Time will tell.

Another piece of mail that I received was the City of Norfolk 2010 Annual Report. This is a very slick publication about the city and is worth the reading. It is loaded with great facts and figures about the current state of the city. One section that caught my eye was again neighborhoods. In this three page spread Wards Corner was the first neighborhood mentioned in the Neighborhood section. In addition, the last page of the section was completely dedicated to Wards Corner. Again I view this as a positive sign of new attention being paid to Wards Corner. Now we need to keep the pressure on to turn this attention into an action plan for redevelopment of the area. This is especially true for the new council members who will be sworn in on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is their responsibility to make this happen and we need to hold their feet to the fire to ensure that it does bring more positive results to our area.

Finally, remember this is a Census year. It is extremely important that all of us be counted. If you haven't turned in your census form please do so. People mean dollars. The more we have, the more money comes our way for services that are needed. Census workers are now hitting the streets. Please respond to them if they knock on your door. They will ask a few questions to get the information needed for the 2010 US Census. Please help them do their job.

In closing, councilman-elect Andy Protogyrou will attend our next civic league meeting. The City Manager has also confirmed her attendance and will speak about the new city budget for 2010/2011. Please come out and meet and listen to these folks.

Thanks and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,



#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2330.89
+ funds received	\$140.00		
- funds disbursed		\$82.95	
Ending Balance			\$2387.94

#### WCCL Membership

**We now have 95 paid members in our civic league, increasing by two members since last month.  
Are you one of our paid members?**

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

#### **NEWS AND NOTES**

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**Join Us!**

#### ***We need Participants!***

***Your help is needed to be a volunteer to pick up litter at our Adopt - a - Spot area (Ruthven Road at W. Little Creek Road) on Saturday, May 15, 8:00 AM. It only takes about an hour, and makes an impressive difference in the area.***

#### ***Questions?***

***Call Ray Duron at 423-4337. Gloves, trash bags and safety vests provided.***

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***All who attend our May meeting will be eligible for a \$25 door prize-a restaurant gift certificate.***

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

April 19, 2010

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, April 19, 2010, at 6:45PM in NF&WCenter. Jim English, President, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed guests, and distributed written police crime stats to allow more time for Ward 1 candidates for Council: Chuck Brewer, Barbara Saunders and Andrew Protogyrou. Daun Hester, candidate for Mayor, would arrive late. 35 persons attended.

Chuck Brewer, a retired Lieutenant after 33 yrs. with Norfolk Police Department, owns Just Call Chuck Home Repair. He is running on issues of clean, safe neighborhoods, improving schools, creating new jobs and lowering taxes and eliminating wasteful spending. He took issue that our President had already endorsed his opponent. Other issues of concern are sand replenishment, flooding, Meadowbrook School and Council accountability.

Barbara Saunders, a small business owner, Saunders Painting Company, stated that she is the only candidate with civic and business experience, (NRHA, Norfolk Crime Line, HR Chamber of Commerce, etc) . She is committed to open and transparent government , televised council meetings, better schools, compensation/retirement benefits for teachers, fire fighters and city employees. Ward 1 includes only the Walgreen/Rite Aid side of Granby Street at Wards Corner. Ward 2 is the opposite side.

Andrew Protogyrou, an attorney of 24 years and a substitute judge, is in a 22 person law firm. He states that Wards Corner concerns need prioritization in Council. How to bring development to the business district? He promised to revitalize Wards Corner, solve issues of Mason Creek flooding, support schools and improve quality of life for all.

Daun Hester (currently Super Ward 7) stated that she is best candidate for the city. She is a member of many committees and boards. Her vision is to maintain what we have but "we need to be stronger". She supports transparent government, inclusive leadership (team approach), strong communities (healthy neighborhoods, strong schools), and economic opportunities.

All candidates were asked questions : how would one accelerate Wards Corner development with the current budget situation , how to draw solid businesses to Wards Corner, how fast will you accelerate progress in Wards Corner, loitering , performance of present City Manager, how to move forward when no one else has?? In closing, Protogyrou stated he is the most passionate, knows the issues and at the end of the day, "who will bring the bacon home?" Saunders stated she has the most business experience, is endorsed by Federation of Teachers, City Employees. Brewer seeks openness that is nonexistent, wants responsibility, accountability.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Griffey, Secretary

## **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)

## **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**

***For May 2010***

***from the Virginian-Pilot February 13, 2010***

-Complete larger exterior painting jobs. Follow the shade-don't paint in direct sun-and quit before dusk so the paint can dry before dew forms. Cheap paint isn't a bargain. For most exterior jobs, look for 100 percent acrylic, and buy at least the "better" quality.

-Clean gas grill and replace any rusted or damaged parts.

-Check crawl space for moisture and remove debris. If you spot signs of termites, call a pro.

-Clean concrete drives, walkways and patios, and repair as needed.