



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

September 2010 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

**September 20, 2010
6:45 PM**

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

Agenda

**Invited Representative from Cox
Cable
Internet Safety**

**Door Prize Awarded
Gift Certificate**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome back! The summer of 2010 is now almost over and like you, I believe that it has once again sped by way too fast. I hope your summer was enjoyable and relaxing. I also hope you are now ready to begin the fall activities. Possibly like you I spent the Thursday and Friday before Labor Day nervously watching the TV trying to catch the latest news on the track of Earl. Fortunately we were one again spared the destruction of another hurricane. Let's hope our luck continues again this year. Nonetheless we should be prepared just in case one does hit us in the future. With fall fast approaching, school is in session and the Wards Corner Civic League will begin holding its regular meetings again beginning with our meeting at 6:45PM on September 20th to be held at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. While we have not had a meeting in two months, several of us have been busy working on issues to make our area better.

One of the highlights of our summers past has been the presentation of flags on the 4th of July throughout our neighborhood and the city. Unfortunately due to State budget cuts, Senator Northam and

Delegate Miller were unable to provide the flags this year. While we considered funding the flags from our Treasury, the cost was too high for us to move forward with that idea. We are sorry, as were Delegate Miller and Senator Northam, that we could not continue the tradition this year. It is always so impressive to see all of the flags lining the streets of our neighborhood and city, although I did see many flags left over from last year out on the Fourth. It is a suitable reminder of who we are as Americans, what we represent and the sacrifices made by so many Americans over history to allow us to enjoy our liberty as a free country. Perhaps we will be able to continue this tradition next year.

The most important issue facing our civic league area right now that has developed over the summer is the planned redirection that the Collins Condominium project on Newport Ave. has taken. Mr. Collins has changed his plans from middle to high-income condominiums to a dense apartment complex. The "massing" of apartments in this area is totally unacceptable and we are opposed to it. We simply do not need any more apartment units in our area. We are inundated with them now, and it represents more non-home ownership to the city and us. This is NOT the way to redevelop an area. Over the summer, members of the Wards Corner Task Force and Wards Corner Now met and discussed this change in plans. At a Wards Corner Now meeting, the group voted against his planned apartment complex. A proposal from Collins Enterprises to develop the 189-unit Landmark at Talbot Park complex near Wards Corner faces an uncertain future. Collins received approval in 2008 to build condominiums on the property, but has now proposed building apartments instead. His rationale is hard economic times. We believe we should not have to bear the brunt of his change to our neighborhood because of decisions he made in planning the development of the property. He originally planned condominiums and we are holding him to that plan. So far we have been able to hold off his revised plan from coming before the Planning Commission for reapproval. The Planning Commission is requiring that he meet with the area civic league representatives and seek their ideas on how they would like him to redirect his project. He has indicated that he will meet with us soon.

Despite the community's complete opposition to the development of an apartment complex and "massing" them along Newport Ave, Collins is continuing

his quest, and he will be seeking approval from the Planning Commission to build an apartment complex anyway. Please call or write a letter to the Norfolk City Planning Commission stating your opposition to this plan. Simply stated, Wards Corner has too many apartment units now and that is especially true for our civic league area. Thanks to the efforts of Sherry Romulus and a few of her friends, signs are now available for you to use to communicate that this new proposal for an apartment complex is unacceptable. To get your own sign, please e-mail Wards Corner Now – wardscornernow@wardscornernow.com - and include your address. Below is what the sign looks like. Perhaps you have seen them around the neighborhood.



Some good news! Nutty Buddy's is closed and the new AJ Gators opened over the Labor Day weekend. These are positive moves for us. Also, a new councilman now represents our area as Andy Protogyrou was sworn in on July 1st. He has hit the ground running and is working hard for us. Several of us have met with him a few times over the summer on a multitude of issues. He is listening to us and will act on our behalf.

I want to welcome you back to another year of good productive civic league meetings. If you regularly attend our meetings please bring a neighbor. If you have never been to a meeting or you are new to the area, please join us. A strong active civic league like ours gives us good and continued political clout, which we have built with our council representatives to this area. We have a great fall program lined up and we hope to see you at the meetings.

Please enjoy this newsletter. Please join your civic league. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

Sincerely,

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Community Police 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2296.23
+ funds received	\$160.00		
- funds disbursed		\$107.95	
Ending Balance			2,348.28

WCCL Membership

Our civic league has ninety-eight households that are members. At least half of these households has two members each.

Thanks for your support!

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

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, September 18, 8 AM. It only takes about an hour or two and makes an impressive difference in the area.

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

(If you read the article about Adopt-a-Spot in the latest Norfolk Quarterly magazine, you saw Ray quoted regarding our group and the year round work they perform in order to keep this spot neat. If you aren't able to help at this spot, monitor the area around your own home, and pick up litter.)

More Help Needed!!

Can you donate an hour a month to deliver our newsletters in your area? Please call Sue Classick at 489-2315 to volunteer.

On October 16, Christ the King Women's Club craft show, bake sale, and white elephant sale will be held at Christ the King Church from 10 AM to 2:00 PM. To rent a table, please call the parish office at 622-1120. 1803 Columbia Avenue.

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

450 graduates, 600 incoming freshmen, 3 students internationally bound for college, \$6.1 million in scholarship monies, a recognized IB program, ranked 529 of 1600 high schools in a national magazine, 50% seniors enter college, funding was cut for "middle college", 6 teachers and a security officer lost jobs, school built for 1800 students but enrolls 2200, parental volunteers are a possibility, and gang problem (girls predominate in school, boys outside). He addressed dress codes, lunchroom litter, etiquette, ethics, PTA, computer login, cell phone usage, web pages, etc.

Martin reported on the Collins development across from NFWCenter. Due to financing problems, they wish to change the site plan from condo construction to a donut shaped 4 story 189 apartment building, close to Newport Ave. replacing 72 units in 3 buildings "The Landings at Talbot Hall". Questions followed pertaining surrounding apartments, vacancies, rental rates, crime rate, city council planning and approval. Members expressed desire for home ownership, not apartments. It will be up to us to petition Council members of our disapproval.

AJGators plans to open (in Wherehouse Building) early August, before football season (multiple TV's). WCCL may meet there one night for support. No update on the business district renovations. There will be no flags for the 4th due to Northam/Miller decline in budgeting. We are encouraged to purchase our own flags to display.

Questions about lawn care responsibility of foreclosed neighborhood homes, noisy parties/noise laws near 500 block of Burleigh Ave., harassment of a daycare home, and direct TV disks in front yards,.

The meeting adjourned until September at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan S Griffey, Sec'y

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

June 21, 2010

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, June 21, 2010 in NFWCenter at 6:45 PM. President Jim English was out of state, so VP Martin Thomas, Jr. welcomed members and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty three members and guests attended.

Officer Curtis Jackson will retire Aug.1 after 26 years of service. He received applause, thanks, a plaque and small memento. His successor will be Officer Davis. No crime report followed.

Our speaker was Ted Daughtrey, Granby High School Principal for 8 years. He stated these statistics:

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)