



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

April 2011 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

**April 18, 2011
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

Agenda

**Marcus Jones
Norfolk City Manager Invited**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

I have good news and bad news to report this month. First the good (or should I say great) news.

Our own Martin Thomas Jr. has been appointed by City Council to the Planning Commission. Congratulations Martin! This means we will have a voice and vote on the Planning Commission when it comes to development decisions in our Greater Wards Corner area. This is first for us as we have never had a voice on this Commission and hence have had a hard time getting the votes needed in development decisions that will ultimately go to City Council. With his vote he can vote against such projects as new apartment complexes and other businesses that we may or may not find favorable in Wards Corner. I am not aware of any other appointments to the city's many boards and commissions from our civic league area. I have served for many years on the Norfolk Environmental Commission and currently serve on the Norfolk Public Health Advisory Board. We wish you well, Martin, in your new appointed role and we know that you will serve us well.

In the bad news department, the Virginia General Assembly has gerrymandered the State electoral districts and Norfolk has unfortunately lost another

delegate in the Republican controlled house redistricting plan. While Norfolk population warrants three delegates, we have lost Paula Miller and her district. This means that we will have someone from another City (Portsmouth or wherever) representing us. Isn't that exciting! I can't wait for them to accept my invitation to our civic league meeting when they (whoever) run for office and come to our March General Assembly update meeting. Let's see how well they will represent Norfolk and us. I would encourage each of you, if you don't like this arrangement, to send the Governor an email or letter letting him know of your dissatisfaction of the lack of meaningful representation for Norfolk and our area to the general assembly. This is the second time in ten years that this has happened to Norfolk and our area. We lost a delegate from our area the last time redistricting was done. Fortunately we still have two Senators for Norfolk and we will still have Senator Ralph Northam representing us in our area. You should be infuriated with this gerrymandering plan. I am.

Finally, I need to report that despite what our community police are telling us regarding the crime in our area, robberies and burglaries are up in the Greater Wards Corner area. The following was recently posted on Wards Corner Now and all are encouraged to heed this advice.

"With the increase in reported robberies and burglaries in and around the Wards Corner area, please be reminded to report all suspicious activity to the police.

What is suspicious? Below is an excerpt from the Norfolk Neighborhood Coordinators' Manual, developed by the Crime Prevention Division of the Norfolk Police Department.

"WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?"

Basically, anything that seems even slightly out of the ordinary . . . could be criminal activity."

Examples (not a complete list):

- A stranger inspecting or entering your neighbor's home while your neighbor is away.
- Someone trying to open a neighbor's door or window.

- A moving truck or van pulled up to a neighbor's home while they are gone.
- Remember, burglaries often occur at times when they should be most obvious (broad daylight, in full view of observers).
- Someone carrying property such as televisions, stereos, etc., at an unusually late hour or in an unusual place, especially if it does not appear that the property is newly purchased.
- The sound of shattering glass could signal a possible burglary, vandalism or larceny in progress.
- Anyone peering into vehicles as they walk down the street or someone removing tags, gasoline or parts from a vehicle.
- Someone attempting to enter a vehicle using a coat hanger or other device.
- Never assume that it is the owner who has locked his keys in his car.
Be suspicious of anyone tampering with the hood or trunk of a car.
- An improperly parked vehicle or abandoned vehicle or someone leaving one vehicle and driving away in another may be signs of a stolen vehicle.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle could be a victim of possible abduction.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, and isolated areas or in the neighborhood. These loiterers could be possible sex offenders or burglars.
- Business transactions conducted from vehicles, especially around schools, playgrounds or parks.
- A steady flow of strangers to and from a particular house on a regular basis could indicate drug sales or a fencing operation (purchasing of stolen goods).
- Offers of goods or repair work at an unusually low price could indicate stolen property or some type of fraud.

- All fights, screams and loud noises (such as explosions) should be reported.
- Door-to-door solicitors without properly issued licenses and identification should be suspected.

"DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO CALL. CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT IN PROGRESS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY."

Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency:
441-5610

Lastly, please visit our website www.wardscorner.com or www.wardscornernow.com to read more about this and other important news items affecting our area. I hope to see you at our next meeting on Monday, April 18th at 645PM at the Wellness Center.

Thanks,

Sincerely,



WCCL Membership

Please join your civic league. Annual membership is a bargain for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members).

Ninety three households in our area have paid their dues.

Send your check to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

NEWS AND NOTES

The Wards Corner Civic League congratulates Norma and Les Demmin on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Thanks to the neighbors who participated in the Adopt-A-Spot clean-up on Saturday, March 26.

Members participating in the event were Stephanie and Shawna Gallagher, Jeff and Donna Van Keuren, and our group leader, Ray Duron. We gathered 11 bags of litter and one big limb for a total of about 290 pounds of litter. We also cleaned up the area of Ruthven at the railroad tracks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need able bodies to participate in the 2011 annual Great American Cleanup on Saturday, April 23, starting at 8:00 AM at our adopt-a-spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek Road). Questions?? Call Ray Duron at 423-4337. Gloves, trash bags and safety vests are provided. Help make the Great American Cleanup a success.

April is Pothole Month.

Contact the Cares Center at 664-6510 to report any potholes in your area that need repair.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2370.58
+ funds received	\$70.00		
- funds disbursed		\$217.32	
Ending Balance			\$2,223.26

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)

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

March 21, 2001

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, March 21, 2011 at 6:45PM in NFWCenter. President Jim English led the Pledge of Allegiance and then welcomed new members. In attendance: 30.

Officer Davis reported 4 larcenies, burglaries on Burleigh and Maycox and advised us to replace screws on our license plates to prevent thievery (many occurred near Norfolk Collegiate School). He asked that we call 911 if anything /anyone seems unusual in our neighborhood. We sadly heard that our Red Sector officer, Lt. Mackenzie had died this day.

Delegate Paula Miller, Del. Ken Alexander and Sen. Dr. Ralph Northam were invited speakers. Each gave an overview of bills and legislative items with which they are involved. Del. Alexander touched on foreclosure relief, regulation of fertilizers with phosphorus, transportation, education, ABC privatization, VA Retirement System. Del Miller spoke about criminalizing sale and possession of K2 Spice, a designer drug imitating synthetic marijuana. The bill is awaiting signature of the Governor. Sen. Northam is working on a balanced budget, with no increase in taxes. He stated a 4% cut in Medicaid reimbursements to physicians while 55% of CHKD patients receive Medicaid, advocates autism coverage, is requesting 150 minutes weekly recess for school aged students, though unfunded. They all addressed state redistricting. Loudin and Prince William counties have seen a large growth in population (even illegals are counted in the census) and we may lose representation. Questions were directed to the bridge tunnel, potholes, interstate roadways, gun issues. We are encouraged to continue to Email, phone and write legislators with our concerns. President English expressed gratitude for the legislators' service.

A member asked about the School Board policy on WC boundaries for enrolling in Blair Jr High School. Mike Spencer has not replied to any requests since January. A topic of conversation followed: a police officer recently moved into the area and experienced a house robbery. There is an increase in burglaries within one mile (Talbot Hall, Suburban Park). Norfolk Air website is informative in listing our statistics in crime. We need more attention with police patrols and response.

June Schumacher asked for our participation in a fund raiser on April 9 at Royster Presbyterian Church for The Dwelling Place, a homeless shelter. Saturday, March 26 is AdoptASpot clean up with Ray/Betty Duron at Ruthven Rd. and W Little Creek Road. Volunteers are needed. Wards Corner Pub is closed. AJGators may start weekend breakfast offerings.

Our next meeting is April 18.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Griffey, Sec.