



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

October 2011 Web site www.wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

**October 17, 2011
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

FALL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUM
Delegate Kenny Alexander-unopposed
Delegate Lynwood Lewis-unopposed
Senator Ralph Northam-incumbent
Ben Loyola-challenger

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

As fall approaches, so does election season. At our October meeting we hope to bring all of the candidates who represent us in our civic league area to our meeting. We are inviting the candidates who are running unopposed as well as those who are running with opposition. Invited are Delegate Kenneth Alexander and new Delegate Lynwood Lewis who is replacing Paula Miller as a result of redistricting. We are also inviting Senator Ralph Northam who is running against Ben Loyola. I am asking them to debate the issues for our area in a structured forum format as we have done before in our candidate forums. I am hopeful all of these folks will come to our civic league meeting.

At our September meeting I discussed the rumor and non-rumor mill that has been circulating around Wards Corner regarding future development in the business district. While I don't want to beat a dead horse, I do want to share with you what I said at that meeting for those of you not in attendance. So here it is.

It was reported in the Virginian Pilot on September 15th that an Upscale Grocery Store was coming to Wards Corner. You may remember the headline.

"Harris Teeter to Wards Corner?"

September 15, 2011

The Virginian-Pilot is reporting that Chris Perry has plans to begin demolishing a dilapidated shopping area in Wards Corner within six months. He would replace it with a shopping center anchored by Harris Teeter."

While we have known for some time that Mr. Perry does have plans for making extensive changes to his property, most, if not all of what is out there regarding his plans is rumor until he makes the announcement. Unfortunately, the civic league president from Suburban Acres Civic League made this announcement at his September meeting that was also attended by the reporter who broke the story in the Pilot. The problem with breaking this story is that it is not from Mr. Perry himself. If indeed he is negotiating with Harris Teeter to build a store on his property and the deal is not complete, the irresponsible release of this information, whether true or not, could kill the deal. That would be very unfortunate.

What is not rumored and also verified by me is that most, if not all, of the tenants on his property have been given 6 months leases and must vacate their businesses after their lease expires. Some may stay longer until the changes to the property are complete or under way. I also know that those current tenants that I have talked to plan on staying and relocating in the Wards Corner business district.

Therefore, what we know is that Mr. Perry is planning on redeveloping his property – and soon. What we don't know is who will be there and what the new Perry shopping center footprint will look like. It is exciting to know that Mr. Perry is moving forward with the revitalization of Wards Corner. We have been waiting for something like this to happen. Hopefully this may encourage other large property owners in the business district to do the same – and soon. Some of them may need that encouragement to redevelop their properties. We can only hope that this will be the start of the revitalization that we have been working on for the past 15 years.

Regardless of whatever happens in the business district, we should be cautious in what we say and not spread rumors about possible land or business deals that may be in the works. To do so may kill any potential deals. It is the responsibility of the property owner to

release this information when they are ready to do so.
For anyone else to do so is irresponsible!

Please enjoy the information in this newsletter
and I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Membership

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

***One hundred and 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: _____

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

September 19, 2011

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday,
September 19, 2011 in NFWCenter at 6:45PM. President
Jim English called us to order and led the Pledge of
Allegiance. He welcomed new members from Bradford
and Maycox Avenues and ex officers Gary Ashburne and
Linda Spear. Attendance: 29.

Officer Odell Davis reported that within the past
30 days, WCCL had 11 burglaries, 9 larcenies and 2
vandalisms. He noted a situation of an unlocked door,
informed us about posting of trespass signage, related
that Granby High School students over 18 yrs. may sign
self out of school, responded to no follow up to a
larceny, stated the area has an unsuccessful

crime/neighborhood watch, and was advised of Sterling
Ave. and Arbor Apt. disturbances. Officer Davis
encouraged calls to the police if any suspicious activity
occurs in the neighborhood.

President English apologized for the absence of
our invited speaker, City Manager Marcus Jones, who
was on retreat in Suffolk with other council members.
Jim announced that the Sewer Pump Station was
approved by the Design and Review Committee, and will
go to the Planning Commission in October. The project
will last 18 months. The City made contracts on 6
apartment buildings in Denby Park and negotiations for
a few more are pending. \$2.6 million was budgeted with
\$30 thousand extra for closing costs. This was a step in
the direction of fulfilling a part of the 2004 Compre-
hensive Plan for Wards Corner. A newspaper article
and rumors suggest the revival/demolition/rehab of the
Perry Family SW corner of the business district. There
seems to be no certain public deal with a local grocery
chain, but present tenants were given notice to vacate
by February, '12. Hopefully, higher quality businesses
will locate here.

Our October 17 meeting will entertain the two
candidates vying for our district's State Senate: Capt.
Ben Loyola and Dr. Ralph Northam. Representatives Ken
Alexander and Linwood Lewis are expected, also.
November- City Manager Jones is re-invited, and in
December: our Norfolk Public School Superintendant
Other newsworthy items: Surveyors at Bradford and
Newport are utility workmen. At Grantham and Rest-
mere, the one way sign needs study by the City. Yellow
street markings are absent at the RR tracks near
Wendy's and McDonalds, causing traffic problems with
left turns.

Martin Thomas, Jr., of the Planning Commission
stated that tolls will be added next year to the Midtown
Tunnel improvement project (\$1.64 and \$1.84 peak).
Bon Secours/DePaul Hospital is revisiting the plans for
the campus architecture, as some are dissatisfied with
the present plan. Joan Griffey, Beautification, stated that
6 brick crosswalks (already budgeted) will be redis-
cussed awaiting results of construction in the area. The
repair of the irrigation system (2003) and the land-
scaping of the median between North Shore Road and
Taussig Boulevard on Granby Street are undergoing
approval with the Taskforce (Commercial Corridor Fund).

Saturday, September 24 is the Adopt A Spot
clean up at Ruthven Rd. and W Little Creek Rd. Ray and
Betty Duron are our organizers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Griffey, Rec Sec.

Street Lights and Apple Pie

(from Chris Casnelli-Colonial Place/Riverview newsletter)

Lots of us boomers played and lived our childhoods according to the cycle of street lights. It must have been part of the American way. Parents across the country called out as they watched children race away on bicycles, scooters and skateboards, "Be home by the time the street lights come on!" Today, working street lights still are critical, especially as a crime prevention strategy.

In 2008, a Department of Justice study thoroughly examined the relationship between increased street lighting and crime. The report concluded, "It is clear that reductions in crime can be achieved by improvements in street lighting and that these reductions will be most worthwhile in high-crime neighborhoods. It is also clear that improved lighting can reduce crime during the day and at night. This suggests that improvements to lighting not only act as a situational deterrent to crime, but can also improve local community cohesion and pride, which in turn increases the willingness of residents to intervene in crime or cooperate with the police. Improved lighting will also send a message to potential offenders that the neighborhood no longer offers easy opportunities for crime." See <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/files/RIC/Publications/e1208-streetlighting.pdf>. Note that the relationship in good lighting and reduced criminal activity extends *even into daylight hours*.

All this emphasis on working street lights is taking place concurrently with fall's dwindling daylight hours, and an increased opportunity for those who would use the dark to disguise their dastardly deeds. As a neighborhood, CPRV needs to have every single street light glowing and every porch light shining at night. Is everyone making a list of non-working street lights? Just tuck a scrap of paper and pencil in your pocket and take a stroll down your own block during one of these cool fall evenings. When you notice a non-working street light, make a note of its number and location and contact the City Cares Number-664-6510.

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)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2408.04
+ funds received	\$10.00		
- funds disbursed		\$82.95	
Ending Balance			\$2335.09

NEWS AND NOTES

Thanks to the folks from the Sussex and Colony Point areas for participating in the Adopt-a-Spot clean-up on Saturday, September 24. Members participating were Sue Classick, Jim Pressler, Steve Yaros, Shawn Gallagher, Stephanie Dunlap, Christine Armstrong and group leader, Ray Duron. Our group cleaned Ruthven Road from W. Little Creek Road to the railroad tracks, and cleaned Grantham and W. Little Creek Roads from Nesbitt to Sheryl Drives. We gathered 11 bags and one big limb.

Blessed Sacrament Church, 6400 Newport Avenue, will hold their Fall Bazaar on Friday, November 4 from 7AM to 2 PM and Saturday, November 5, from 8AM to 2 PM.

If you won't be in this area to vote on election day, Tuesday, November 1, 2011, please remember to cast an absentee ballot. Information is available online from the Virginia State Board of Elections. Your completed ballot needs to be received at the local board by 5:00 PM, the Tuesday before election day (October 25).

The City of Norfolk is updating the General Plan, planNorfolk 2030, and wants citizens' input. Join representatives from the City's Planning Department at one of six community meetings scheduled throughout the City in October and November. Our local one will be held at the Workforce Development Center (beside Kroger's) from 6-8 PM on November 3, 2011 (Thursday). Can't make that meeting? Contact Paula Shea from the Planning Department at 664-4772 or check the website www.norfolk.gov/planning/GeneralPlan.asp for other dates and locations.