

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

**January 23, 2011
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PREVIOUS
YEAR**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

What will the New Year bring to Wards Corner and the city of Norfolk? As we begin a New Year will we look forward to increasing progress in the redevelopment of Wards Corner? As you read my wish list for Christmas and for the New Year, I wonder if any of these will indeed come true in 2012. Remember they were:

- The city of Norfolk to continue to purchase blighted property in Denby Park.
- The city of Norfolk to continue to make Wards Corner a higher priority.
- The redevelopment of the Perry Property
- The redevelopment of the Dalis Property
- The redevelopment of the Farm Fresh Property
- The redevelopment of the Kroger shopping center.
- A permanent Police Chief
- A new Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools
- A permanent Development Director
- A permanent Human Services Director
- No robberies and larcenies in our neighborhood.
- No transvestites and prostitutes walking the streets in our area selling themselves.
- A new sewer pump station and sewer lines.

- A beautiful revitalized Wards Corner Business District that blends with our neighborhood.

I and many others have been at this task for the revitalization of Wards Corner for some 12+ years now and have seen improvements, although it has been very slow in coming. I am going to keep track of my wish list to see how many of these are addressed by years end.

During 2011, we had an interesting and productive civic league year. Below are highlights from last year's meetings:

January 2011: Voted against FORKIDS coming to the business district. I then presented highlights of the 2010 year.

February 2011: Recognized 3 Granby Elementary Students for their Science Award achievements in the State Science Fair. Heard a presentation from Norfolk Police Officers McKenzie and Davis on their policing activities in Wards Corner.

March 2011: Our guest speakers were Senator Ralph Northam and Delegates Kenny Alexander and Paula Miller who discussed the highlights of the 2011 Virginia General Assembly Session.

April 2011: Councilman Andy Protoyrou was our guest and he discussed with us the redistricting plan for the cities Electoral Wards. Despite the changes, Andy will still represent our area. Members of the Department of Utilities also made a presentation regarding the proposed new sewer pump station to be located on or near the Wellness Center

May 2011: Our guest speaker was David Setchel, Administrator with Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center who briefed us on the plans for the new Medical Center Complex. We also had an update from the Utilities department on the proposed pump station.

June 2011: Our guest speaker was Stanley Stein, Deputy City Manager who spoke about the Neighbors Building Neighborhoods program. We also had updates about the proposed sewer pump station and the Food Bank's Emergency Food Assistance Program.

We do not hold our meeting during the months of July and August.

September 2011: We again heard updates on the sewer pump station and the land acquisition of property in the Denby Park neighborhood. We have finally agreed on the design and location of the sewer pump station as of this past summer.

October 2011: We held a candidate forum for those candidates running for the Virginia General Assembly this year with elections in November. Meeting with us and discussing their platform were incumbent Delegates Kenny Alexander and Linwood Lewis who were running unopposed. Running for the Senate were incumbent Ralph Northam and challenger Ben Loyola.

November 2011: Our speakers were Councilman Andy Protogyrou and Brad Robinson who spoke about the resignation of the Norfolk Superintendent of Schools. Councilman Protogyrou also spoke about other issues pertinent to Wards Corner.

December 2011: Our guest speaker was Chuck Rigney, Interim Director of Development who spoke about the operations of the Planning Department. We also held our elections and all of the incumbents were again elected for another one year term.

As the New Year begins we will once again provide you with speakers on timely and relevant issues at our civic league meetings. We also want you to attend and bring your issues and concerns to us so that we may help address and/or rectify those issues and problems. You may keep track of the civic league happenings in this monthly newsletter but your presence at the meetings is greatly appreciated. Please consider attending. Please also visit us at www.wardscorner.com.

Finally, please note that our meeting dates for January and February have changed due to holidays on our regular meeting days. The January meeting will be on January 23rd at 645PM and the February meeting will be the 27th at 645PM. Both meetings will be at the Wellness Center.

Thanks for allowing us to continue to serve you as officers of the Wards Corner Civic League

Happy New Year to all and wishes for a prosperous and healthy year.



Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

December 19, 2011

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, December 19, 2011 in NFWCenter at 6:45PM. President Jim English led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence in memory of our veterans. Newly assigned Red Sector Lt. JBCoghlan (664-4448 and jonathan.coghlan@norfolk.gov) and Officer Odell Davis (390 0417) reported for our area: 5 larcenies (mainly autos), 2 tags stolen, 6 vandalisms, and an arrest made in Kroger robbery. They alerted us of an increase in police surveillance through the holidays. Prostitution arrests are made by the Vice Squad, and chronic issues of homeless, panhandlers etc creep back after given attention by undercover. To report anything suspicious phone 911 emergencies or 441 5610 non emergencies.

City Manager Marcus Jones had a very busy schedule and was not available to speak. A second guest was Interim Director, Chuck Rigney, Dept of Development, a 15 yr City employee. He gave an update on the Wards Corner Business District. Suburban Land Management now owns all 8 acres between Louisiana, Virginian and East Little Creek Road. They expect to name an anchor soon and have site plans drawn. In January, Ray Gindoz, an urban design associate who vets projects citywide concerning revitalization (MacArthur Mall for one), will meet with this landowner. The City may help with streetscape, utilities, and sidewalks. One member asked about expanding the site to include homes facing Louisiana because this is a "signature development" for Wards Corner. Would they move utilities underground? Will sidewalks be expanded for crossing the railroad tracks? On the Northeast corner, Midtown Development, the owner is talking with officials, aware of many tenants being displaced and wishing to stay in Wards Corner. Deferred maintenance, rebranding, landscaping, a new appearance with new vitality could spark some movement for an area of 30,000 Granby/Little Creek Road traffic vehicles daily and 148,000 I64 commuters. He furthered discussed the Texas Streets, grocery stores, Southern Shopping Center retail, talks with national chains, hotels. Martin Thomas, Jr, VP, introduced a unique idea/project for our civic league. For \$70 (each), we could add our PVC laminated website address wardscornernow.com to the present 9-10 green

neighborhood signs, thus keeping neighbors, visitors, potential home seekers electronically informed of our area. A motion was made and seconded to order one attachment, get permission from the City to have it installed and add to the extra signs if we are satisfied with the results. Our newsletter is distributed to nearly 1000 households. Increased visibility may help promote more citizen activism and inclusion. Election of officers was held. There were no nominations from the floor in opposition to President Jim English, VPresident Martin Thomas, Jr, VPresident Sue Classic, Secretary Joan Griffey, and Treasurer Ray Duran. Nominations were closed and the present slate was elected for 2012. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Rec Sec'y

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2,230.59
+ funds received	\$5.00		
- funds disbursed		\$82.95	
Ending Balance			\$2,152.64

Holiday House Decoration Awards

Your Board was impressed with the number of homes in our neighborhood that were decorated for the holidays. It was a difficult decision, but this year's awards go to:

Traditional 420 Birmingham
Whimsical 312 Bradford
Best Overall 7305 Colony Point
Honorable Mention 515 Maycox
532 Timothy

Prizes will be awarded at our January meeting.

NEWS AND NOTES

ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED

Although we have be advertising for substitutes to help deliver our newsletters when regular delivery persons are not available, we really need a permanent delivery person to pass our newsletters out on the south side of West Little Creek Road.If you feel that you could spare about one hour a month to "adopt" this route, please contact Sue Classickat 489-2315.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We love to have members join any time of the year, but if you have previously paid your membership fee, it is due again in January. The amount is only \$5.00/person or \$10.00/family. It is important to have these monies as well as our advertising support -it allows us to print our newsletter each month, pay for prizes that are awarded to the winners of our Holiday Decoration Contest, and to provide for other incidentals throughout the year. Please give your check to Ray Duran as soon as possible. Currently, we have 107 paid members. We pass out 1000 newsletters each month.

Thanks for your support.

The streets in our neighborhood are swept the first Friday of each month. If possible, remove your car from curbside that day to allow the sweeper access to the entire street. It really makes a difference in our neighborhood's appearance.

City of Norfolk Residential Electronics Collection

Electronic items, along with paint, chemicals, and batteries are accepted with proof of residency and at no charge at two Norfolk sites:
1195 Lance Road 7 days/week-24 hours
1176 Pineridge Road M-Sat. 10-2
Call 441-5813