



## 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

May 2012

Web site [www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com)

### **CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**May 21, 2012  
6:45 PM**

**Invited**

**Senator Ralph Northam,  
Delagate Linwood Lewis  
Highlights of 2012 General  
Assembly**

**Rick Dempsey, Engineer  
Norfolk Department of Utilities  
Update on Pump Station,  
Neighborhood Sewer Repairs**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS  
CENTER**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Neighbors,

Congratulations are in order for Councilman Barclay Winn on his re-election to our Superward. Barclay has been with us for twelve years now and has assisted us with many of the redevelopment efforts that we see in Wards Corner today. For that we are grateful and thank him for his dedication to making a Wards Corner a better place.

The work, however, is not done and we expect him to continue supporting us in our determination in the total and complete revitalization of Wards Corner. He has said to me he will continue to do that and I know that he will do so as best he can.

Great strides have been made in the past few months that will set the stage for, hopefully, a more rapid redevelopment of the area. Just consider that in the past few months we have learned that:

- 1 Chris Perry is completely redeveloping his property. Demolition should start this summer as all of the tenants relocate to other places. Harris Teeter has announced that this will be one their flagship stores and should open in 2014. We have also asked for the city to work with Dominion Power to bury the power lines on Granby and Little Creek road as this property is redeveloped.
- 2 Joan Dalis is putting a facelift on her property which is starting now and should be completed in 6 months. Hopefully more and new stores will be opening there as well.
- 3 Eight properties have been acquired and demolished in Denby Park and more properties are to be purchased in that area with an additional 2 million dollars allocated in next year's city budget for more property acquisition and demolition.
- 4 Norfolk Collegiate School's Fine Arts Center is now under construction.
- 5 Bon Secour DePaul Hospital will soon be undergoing a major renovation and upgrade.
- 6 Farm Fresh is getting ready to do a 2 million dollar renovation of its store soon which will last into the fall of 2012.

Based on this I would say that things are beginning to look up for the area in the way of redevelopment. Wouldn't you agree? I am sure I will be reporting on more developments as the weeks and months progress.

Residents should be aware that Newport Ave near the Fitness and Wellness Center is closed to through traffic for utility work related to the new pump station being installed. The closure is expected to last until July / August 2012. Detour routes will be posted. The community and residents will still have access to the Fitness and Wellness center.

I hope to see you at the next civic league meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> as we welcome our State Senator

Ralph Northam and State Delegate Linwood Lewis to our meeting to discuss their perspectives on the 2012 Virginia General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Jim

### Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

April 16, 2012

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, April 16 at 645PM in Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center.

President Jim English welcomed 40 members and guests and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the demolition of 6 Denby Park apartment buildings would take place on Tuesday, April 17 at 10AM. This was a targeted part of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan.

Officer Odell Davis reported 1 robbery, 3 burglaries, 7 larcenies and 1 vandalism (on North Shore Rd). To contact him, his phone # is 390 0417. For problems on weeds, tall grass, codes, please call Norfolk Cares 664 6510.

Guest speakers were four candidates for Super Ward 6: Barclay Winn, Marcus Calabrese, John Amiral and Jesse Scaccia. Election will be May 1. Each man gave an opening statement and attendees' questions followed. Mr. Winn, 64, is CEO and co owner of Winn Nursery, a grad of NCState University, a member of West Ghent Civic League, Member Exec Committee of HRT, Wards Corner, East Little Creek Road, Ghent and Ocean View Taskforces and a member of Norfolk City Council for 12 yrs. John Amiral, 35, is a business consultant, an ex Navy Lieutenant, a grad of State University of New York, Economics and Communication, VA Council of Human Rights appointee, unsuccessful at run for State Senate in 2011. Marcus Calabrese, 27, attended VA Wesleyan College, is public relations consultant, a director of the Child Nutrition Council for Food bank of SE VA, and board of directors member Hampton Roads Business Outreach. Jesse Scaccia, 33, is Editor in Chief and co owner AltDaily.com. He is a grad of Univ of Connecticut, New York Univ., ODU, a former NY and CA public school teacher and has worked with numerous city departments (parks, economic development, planning, HRTransit). Topics addressed were schools, tolls, neighborhoods, transparency, term limits, lack of business friendly environment, Waterside, leadership, balanced budget, crime, Wards Corner revival, elected school board, waste and tone deaf council.

President English thanked the candidates and adjourned the meeting at 8:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Griffey, Sec.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$1,436.72</b>
<b>+ funds received</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>		
<b>- funds disbursed</b>		<b>\$157.50</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$1406.72</b>

### Membership

***Our current membership is 95. It's not too late to join for this year. Our dues amount is a bargain-\$5.00/person or \$10/household. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim English</b>	<b>423-7154</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP/ Membership</b>	<b>Martin Thomas, Jr.</b>	<b>618-6468</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP/ Newsletter Distribution</b>	<b>Sue Classick</b>	<b>489-2315</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Joan Griffey</b>	<b>440-9508</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ray Duron</b>	<b>423-4337</b>

**Web Master – Martin Thomas, Jr. (618-6468)**  
**Newsletter Editor – Barbara Ross (489-1024 or [bookworms@whro.net](mailto:bookworms@whro.net))**

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

### ***Great American Clean-up***

Thanks to the "hard to find" volunteers who took part in the Great American Clean-up on Saturday, April 28 at our Adopt-a Spot area (Ruthven Road at W. Little Creek Road). We collected 22 bags of litter, 4 large limbs, 4 two by fours (3-4 feet long), and a car hood part. Members participating in this annual event were Sue Classick, Robert Lester, Stephanie and Shawna Gallagher, Steve and Pat Yaros, and Ray Duron, our group leader.

### ***Reminders***

Don't forget that the first Friday of the month is our street cleaner day. Please move your vehicles off the street if possible so our streets can be swept.

Speaking of cleaning-up, now that the weather is nice and we're outside more regularly, take a bag with you as you walk around the neighborhood, and pick up trash. There are a number of homes for sale in our area, and prospective buyers can be "turned-off" when the yards and residences surrounding the home are unsightly. Keeping your grass cut, yards weeded, house trim painted, and even moving trash cans, tools and ladders out of sight help to maintain a well-kept look in the neighborhood and make a positive impression on visitors to our area.

Check out this web-site –it has some great tips about freshening up homes and neighborhoods: [http://norfolk.gov/neighborsbuildingneighborhoods/pdf/curb appeal book.pdf](http://norfolk.gov/neighborsbuildingneighborhoods/pdf/curb%20appeal%20book.pdf)

Norfolk has codes that address some of these issues:

-RVs, boats and jet skis can not be parked in residential areas unless they are in the rear yard, 5 feet behind the property line.

-Inoperable or junk vehicles-a vehicle is deemed inoperable or abandoned depending on its location and circumstances-if it's missing an inspection sticker, a valid license plate or is obviously wrecked or inoperable. The ONLY place to store vehicles of these types is in a fully enclosed structure.

-Tall weeds and grass-the property owner is responsible for the front, side, and rear of property including the area between the sidewalk and curb.

(all municipal city codes can be found at [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com) and follow instructions to Norfolk Va.) If you have questions regarding codes, contact the Cares line at 664-6510.

The city has approved the closure of Newport Avenue during sewer line construction instead of the original decision to keep traffic open on the west side. The contractor has stated that there are safety concerns with the large equipment being used and the wide and deep trenches along the street. Rick Dempsey, from the Department of Utilities, will be at our meeting to answer questions.

### **Norfolk City Budget 2012-2013**

**(excerpts from City Manager's comments to City Council)**

The proposed General Fund budget is \$799,020,809. The total General Fund budget increase is \$4,004,609 or approximately a 0.5 percent increase from the FY 2012 Approved Budget. The Proposed FY 2013 Budget:

- Realigns, reallocates and refocuses resources in order to fund city priorities without raising taxes;
- Provides a strategy to fully fund Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) FY 2013 budget request;
- Provides funds in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to construct the next two schools and design two additional schools;
- Provides a two percent salary increase for city employees;
- Provides a two percent cost of living adjustment for Norfolk retirees;
- Provides additional funds for the Norfolk Community Services Board to stabilize the organization's funding structure and ensure a continual emphasis on customer service; and
- Begins the process of establishing the City of Norfolk as an "Employer of Choice" by reestablishing training opportunities, strengthening supervisor training programs, developing career ladders and emphasizing a working environment where employees are an important part of the decision making process.

More information regarding the budget can be found at <http://www.norfolk.gov/budget/2013.asp>