

## **CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING**

### **NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER**

**MONDAY  
May 20, 2013  
6:45 PM**

#### **Program**

#### **Constitutional Officer Candidate Forum**

##### **Invited**

**Sharon McDonald, Commissioner of  
Revenue**

**Robert McCabe, Sheriff**

**Greg Underwood, Commonwealth's  
Attorney**

**Anthony Burfoot, City Treasurer**

**Update on Pump Station,  
Neighborhood Sewer Repairs**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Neighbors,

For over 15 years now, many of us have been working to revitalize the Greater Wards Corner area. For the past three to four years we have been making very good progress in that effort. However this year the City Manager has proposed cutting the funding for Wards Corner. The below two articles were in the Virginian Pilot in April. Many of you may already know about this but I bring it to your attention in case you do not. While we hope our City Council representatives will be able to convince the City Manager to restore funding to Wards Corner at the 2013 level, it may mean slower progress if we do not see those funds. If that happens then we will have to fight city hall again for more funding. While the city budget will most likely be approved prior to your receiving this newsletter or before the next civic league meeting, please keep your attention tuned for the latest developments in the city funding of Wards Corner. I will

do my best to keep you informed as I hear of those developments. Please also visit us on [www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com) and [www.wardscornernow.com](http://www.wardscornernow.com) and get the latest news about this as well as other civic league and Wards Corner issues.

#### **"City Manager proposes less money for Wards Corner Neighborhood Plan**

April 17, 2013

The City of Norfolk has posted its proposed 2014 fiscal year budget to the [City of Norfolk website](http://www.cityofnorfolk.com). Disappointingly the City Manager has only proposed allocating \$750,000 to the Wards Corner Neighborhood Plan. That is the least amount of funding allocated to the Wards Corner Plan since 2007.

Year Allocation for Implementation of the W. C. Plan  
2014 750,000 (proposed)

2013 2,000,000

2012 1,000,000

2011 1,767,500

2010 1,010,000

2009 2,121,000

2008 1,010,000

2007 505,000

Wards Corner Now, the Wards Corner Task Force, and the various civic leagues in the Wards Corner area have been resolute in their request that neighborhood plan funding be used to purchase and demolish the blighted and crime inducing properties in the Texas streets section of Denby Park. In recent years the City has been successful in purchasing 37 units in 2013 and 68 units in 2011/2012.

Additionally, the proposed 2014 budget includes \$500,000 to provide for the design and construction of improvements to the Granby Street and Louisiana Drive intersection. This is a part of the intersection improvements required by Harris Teeter for the new shopping center in the business district.

**NORFOLK** — For years the City of Norfolk would allocate millions of dollars to revitalizing the Wards Corner area, but this year the funds are getting slashed.

City spokeswoman Lori Crouch says the City Manager was able to scrape and provide \$750,000 for the proposed FY 2014 budget.

"The city is fiscally stressed," said Crouch.

Here's how the numbers break down:

**Year Allocation for Implementation of the Wards Corner Plan**

2014 \$750,000 (proposed)

2013 \$2,000,000

2012 \$1,000,000

2011 \$1,767,500

Less money being allocated to the neighborhood isn't sitting well with residents, businesses owners or patrons of Wards Corner.

Martin Thomas Jr. says less money coming in now could jeopardize overall progress.

Previous funds were used to purchase and demolish blighted and crime-inducing properties in sections of Denby Park. The City purchased 68 units in 2011 and demolished them in 2012. In addition, 37 apartment units were bought in 2013. Once the tenants are relocated the units will be demolished.

Next year, a new shopping plaza featuring Harris Teeter is scheduled to open in Wards Corner.

Thomas is concerned if there is no effort in ridding blighted properties around the shopping center, it will have a negative impression on investors.

"If we can show those businesses that this is a nice place to open and you are going to get a good clientele, that effect will cause more and more redevelopment in the Wards Corner area," Thomas said.

Finally, as we close out the first half of our civic league year, please join us at our May and June meetings. The program is announced in this newsletter as it will be in the June newsletter.

Sincerely, Jim English

**Wards Corner Civic League Minutes**

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, April 15, 2012 at 6:45PM in NFW Center. President Jim English

welcomed members, guests and Norfolk Collegiate Upper School students attending for a government studies project. He then led The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the Boston marathon victims. Attendance: 26.

Rick Dempsey, City Sewer Project Manager, was excused for a prior engagement. Invited guest speakers of the VA General Assembly were Sen. Ralph Northam, MD (excused for a fund raiser) and Delegate Linwood Lewis, who gave a synopsis of the business of the 2013 6 week session in Richmond. With a \$287 million budget, there are 5.6% unemployed. VA ranks 12th in population and 7th in per capita. He spoke about uranium mining, water quality issues, transportation and highway maintenance, gas tax, and other revenue. He addressed Medicare, school safety, tax debates, off shore wind farms and fracking.

Officer Odell Davis reported 5 burglaries (Burleigh, Restmere (2), Doris, Sterling), 1 rape (Doris), 2 stolen vehicles, 4 vandalisms, 1 larceny, the multiple shooting in Denby Park and at a Restmere dwelling and the 7-11 parking lot car crash incident.

Pres. Jim gave an update on the utility project: final paving on Newport Avenue is scheduled for early May with remaining streets later, a June completion for the pump station and continuing re-landscaping of lawns from the home to street pipe hook up.

Ray Duron, our Leader for the Great American CleanUp campaign and Wards Corner Adopt A Spot for litter control, dispensed plastic trash bags, gloves and bagging instructions for the event which will be held on Saturday, April 27. City pick up is scheduled for the site of Ruthven Rd and Grantham.

Vice Pres. Martin Thomas, Jr., and Planning Council member, gave information on alerting our members of crime and other vital and emergency incidents via Email. He is researching ideas for presentation at the May meeting. He gave a WC Taskforce summary: redevelopment ongoing at Louisiana and Granby, crosswalk monies are set aside for future use, no reports of incoming businesses, requests for more parking lot landscaping. Gas lines are being buried in the median of Granby Street.

Pres. Jim requested 1000 US flags for the Fourth of July from Del Lewis. If successful, one or more persons are needed to distribute these to neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan S Griffey, Sec.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1987.00
+ funds received	\$60.00		
- funds disbursed		\$105.00	
Ending Balance			\$1942.00

### WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[bookworms@whro.net](mailto:bookworms@whro.net))

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace 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

### NEWS AND NOTES

*Thanks to the volunteers who signed up for our Great American Clean-up 2013. It was a great success! We had 24 volunteers who signed up for this event, although not everyone was able to attend. However, 19 bags were turned in by Saturday April 20, and by Monday morning when our report was turned in to the Ernie Morgan Center, we had received 4 more bags, for a total of 23 bags. Next year we'll aim for 50! I want to thank the following volunteers who turned in their bags: Diane Dubay, Martin Thomas, Joan Griffey, Barbara Ross, Sue Classick, Pat Yaros, Steve Yaros, Robert Lester, Jeff Van Keuren, and your group leader, Ray Duron. We will be having another clean up in June.*

### Newsletter Deliverers Needed

*Do you enjoy receiving this newsletter each month? We are having difficulty distributing it to all the homes in our League area. Help is still needed to deliver newsletters on the 100-300 blocks of North Shore Road. It only takes about an hour a month, 10 months each year. Please consider helping. Volunteers are also needed as a substitute periodically. Please call Sue Classick at 489-2315.*

*We currently have 112 paid households that are members of our Civic League. Is yours one of these?*

*Contact Ray Duron to pay your \$5.00 dues.*



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