



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

February 2015 Web site www.wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

TUESDAY
February 23, 2015
6:45 PM

Program
Principal Granby Elementary
Rick Dempsey-Utility Construction
Update
WCCL Board Election

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

I wish to thank all of you who attended the last civic league meeting that was held jointly with the Talbot Hall Civic League on January 20th at the Wellness Center. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the final proposal by Art Collins on his development project on Newport Ave. Following a detailed presentation by Mr. Collins and his staff, the membership of both civic leagues held a lively but civil debate on the project. A final vote of 44 to 4 in favor of the project ended the meeting. The proposal then went to the Planning Commission on January 22nd where it also passed. It now goes before City Council for final approval. You can expect to see demolition of the current apartments begin any day now with construction of the development to follow over the next few years. I am pleased that our two civic leagues were able to work together on moving this development proposal through the city processes. This is an example of how working together pays off favorably for all parties involved. Please also realize that the way the project was approved insures that

it must be built as approved. Any changes must come back to the civic leagues for hearing and approval.

I would also like to thank those folks who came out to our first meet and greet at Gaud's Restaurant on Wednesday February 4th. Approximately 50 people from our civic league and the newly forming Crossroads Civic League met and enjoyed food, drink, laughter and good conversation. It was a great evening. We will do it again as many suggested. Thanks to Scott Guirlinger for making the arrangements for this event.

Finally, I am happy to report that our Civic League area had a very good year in 2014. More stores opened including the grand opening of K&K Square at Wards Corner along with the new Harris Teeter grocery store. Other stores opened up in the business district on all of the corners. We saw more improvements to our city infrastructure this year including those to our streets, sewer lines and gas lines. Soon we will have a new public art display on Granby Street near the existing Wards Corner sign. In addition, the Wards Corner Business Association became viable again after a 10 year hiatus. Crime in our area, although still present, was less this year than in previous years. Thanks to Officer Bill Old, our Community Resource Officer, for looking out for us. Throughout the year we heard many great speakers at our monthly meetings and continued to work for the improvement of the area.

Therefore I am happy to report that the State of our Wards Corner Civic League and Greater Civic League Area has improved and is continuing to improve. Let's keep up the momentum. Join our civic league if you haven't already and help us achieve more great things. Many thanks

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2nd VP/Newslet- ter distribution	Sue Classick	489-2315
Secretary	Joan Griffey	440-9508
Treasurer	Ray Duron	423-4337
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Ross	739-3600
Member-at-large	Scott Guirlinger	489-3938

Web Master – Martin Thomas, Jr. (618-6468)
Newsletter Editor - Bookworms@WHRO.net

Membership

It's now time to pay your 2015 dues.

Our dues amount is a bargain-\$5.00/person
or \$10/household.

***Our current membership is 103 households. Send
your check with the form below to Ray Duron at
530 Sterling Street, 23505 or bring it to a
meeting.***

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Boy Scouting at Wards Corner

***Sponsor: Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
288 E. Little Creek Rd.***

***Cub Scout Pack 180, Tuesdays 6:30 PM
1st thru 5th grade.
Call Scott Hannond, 231-313-0863.***

***Boy Scout Troop 180. Thursdays 7:00-9:00 PM
Ages 11 yrs thru 17.
Call John Matroni 757-588-4412***

"Building the Leaders of the Future"

Please visit or call.

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

January 20, 2015

Wards Corner Civic League met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7PM in Norfolk FW Center with Talbot Hall Civic League and others. After the Pledge of Allegiance, WCCL President Jim English and THCL President Jim McDonnell explained the dual meeting: to introduce /educate residents of the impending construction of Westport Commons by Collins Enterprises, then seeking our approval of the \$60 million project on Newport Avenue for its advancement to Planning Council and City Council next week.

Architect Mel Price and other committee members arranged 5 stations of visuals for overview but due to limited time and crowding, the design was elevated for exposure. Following details and explanation of each topic: overall site, apartments, landscaping, townhomes, parking and traffic, numerous attendees' concerns were addressed.

Martin Thomas, Jr, WCCL Vice President and Planning Council member, stated that the civic leagues' approval was required for the project design to be forwarded to Planning and City Council. He spoke of the need for rezoning, a text amendment, a legal document binding stated amenities, a design review, a February vote by Council and a file for architectural review. Owner Art Collins thanked the league representatives and the neighbors involved for their suggestions and help with these design differences. President English asked for a joint civic league vote to approve this proposal....to vote on this up to date presentation for forwarding to the Planning Council. He stated that this summary represents the best compromise. If we deny, Collins can build what is on their previous site plan, with no requirement to what we desire rather than what is now presented. A call for motion that we accept this plan was made by Hal Juren and seconded by Matt Lasko. A raise of hands showed acceptance of the proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 830PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Sec'y

NEWS AND NOTES

Holiday Decorations

The winners of the contest are:

Best Overall – 7227 Elvin

Most Traditional – 7703 Nesbitt

Most Religious – 5551 Timothy

Most Whimsical – 301 Burleigh

**Runners – up – 403 North Shore
517 Burleigh**

THANK YOU!

You've done it again! Volunteers have stepped up to deliver our newsletters, and all our routes are now covered!! Some of our new residents have offered to take a route, and we are grateful for their assistance.

Elections are Coming

Elections for the Wards Corner Civic League Board will be conducted at our February meeting. Nominations can be made at the meeting. Current Board members have indicated that they are willing to continue serving.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	252-207-4361
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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1,978.26
+ funds received	\$125.00		
- funds disbursed		\$126.00	
Ending Balance			\$1,977.26

Tax Preparation Assistance

AARP Tax-Aide is a **Volunteer** organization that provides **FREE** Federal and VA state tax return preparation and e-filing services to taxpayers of any age.

They will be available at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center/Prime Plus at 7300 Newport Ave. Call 757-625-5857 with questions or to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also accepted.

Hours are Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Wed 9:30 AM-6:30 PM, Sat 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

They can help you if:

- Your income is low to moderate
- You have no rental income
- Your business has no inventory or employees

You must provide your social security card, plus 2014 Tax Papers. The taxpayer must also have a picture ID and the tax year 2013 tax return.

Additional information can be found at www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/

Document Shredding Services

The City of Norfolk staff is ready and waiting 24 hours per day, 7 days per week at 1188A Lance Road in Norfolk to shred residents' sensitive documents for free.

When bringing documents to be shredded, please remember:

- All binders and clips must be removed.
- Standard staples are acceptable. Industrial staples must be removed.
- While-you-wait service is available for amounts up to 100 sheets.
- Drop off service is available for those with up to a standard shopping bag full of paper.

Call: 757-664-6510 with questions