



## 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 2015    Web site [www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com)

### PLEASE NOTE MEETING CHANGE INFORMATION

## **Greater Wards Corner Comprehensive Planning Charrette**

**WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST  
CHURCH  
288 E. Little Creek Road**

**Monday  
October 19, 2015  
5:30 – 8:00 PM**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by Jim English [ajim.english@gmail.com](mailto:ajim.english@gmail.com)

Dear Neighbors,

For our meeting this month, we will be having a joint meeting with the other Wards Corner area civic leagues regarding the redevelopment of Denby Park. This is a change from our normal meeting and was just announced in the recent week.

As many of you know, the redevelopment of the Greater Wards Corner Area is something that several of us have been working on for over 15 years. In fact, in 2002 we urged the city to commission an outside study of the area to determine the best way to revitalize it. That resulted in the Wards Corner Comprehensive Plan in 2003 which has been to some extent the driving force behind our revitalization efforts. It was clear that the Denby Park area needed the most immediate attention in order to remove the negative pressures placed on it because of the many blighted apartments and crime issues that were affecting all of us. Since then and particularly in the past 5 years, the city has been setting aside money to purchase and demolish many of these properties.

That has been for the most part completed now, and we are at the stage to determine what is best for that area in the way of redevelopment. Consequently, the city is planning to hold a "charrette" or collaborative meeting among stakeholders to determine the best use

alternatives to a land or design project. The date of this meeting coincides with our normal meeting date, but because of its importance we want to allow all interested civic league members the opportunity to attend. It will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The time and location are posted in this newsletter in the upper left hand corner. I hope you all can take advantage of this opportunity to participate and help define the direction of the Denby Park redevelopment.

This November 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be electing several new leaders to our State government. Here are the choices for our area:

Candidates for the 100th District House of Delegates race are Delegate Robert Bloxom Jr. (R) and Willie Randall (D). Candidates for the 6th Senate District are Senator Lynwood Lewis (D) and challenger Robert Ottinger (R).

Since we will not have a candidate forum as previously planned due to the Denby Park meeting, I urge you to find out about these candidates and vote for those individuals you believe will represent us best in the Virginia General Assembly.

Because of these important elections and our responsibility as a US citizen to vote in every election, I am including a short piece regarding the reasons we should vote. I hope you enjoy it.

The following is from the website of Essortment.com.

"Voting in a local, state, or national election is an exciting opportunity provided by democratic nations to their citizens. There are many good reasons to vote, including the following:

1. Casting a vote allows an individual to express a choice among candidates who wish to become government leaders. It's up to each voter to locate available information about each candidate and to make an informed decision about how to vote. Rather than allowing potential leaders to hide weaknesses and wrong-doing from public awareness, a democratic voting process urges citizens to get involved and to share viewpoints about who should lead. Failing to register a vote is tantamount to saying you don't care. Few people truly remain oblivious to government leadership. Most have opinions about the way things should go, and they should use the voting process to express their preferences.

2. Voting provides a medium for citizens to support the democratic structure. If a majority of citizens chose not to vote, democracy might become a thing of the past, replaced by another form of government that might prove more elitist in nature. Registering to vote means that you believe in the democratic process and will participate in it to represent your right to freedom of speech.

3. Supporting the electoral process helps to reinforce your regional government. Showing that you care with your vote tells candidates that they must be accountable to the public. It also suggests that those who introduce issues for a vote must provide adequate information to answer citizens' questions and address their concerns rather than attempt to foist a half-baked idea onto the general public.

4. Showing up at the poll on voting day sets a good example to others. Remember, your children observe all that you do and will learn from your example, right or wrong as it may be. Civic awareness is an important part of their training and one of the early steps on the road to maturity. Discuss the candidates with your family and make a point of mentioning your vote, or wearing the pin distributed at many polls that reads "I voted today." Voting also sets a positive example to neighbors, friends, and family who may be uninterested in or unfamiliar with the electoral system.

5. Finally, taking time to vote reflects pride in your nation and its government. The country becomes a beacon of liberty for the rest of the world who will be watching. Let everyone know that you care enough about your homeland and its leaders to have a say in the election's outcome. Never surrender your right to speak your mind via the vote on Election Day.

If you are not currently registered to vote, call or stop in at the electoral office in Norfolk City Hall to get signed up. It only takes a few minutes, and even that step is likely to get noticed by those who are watching."

Please become informed about these candidates and issues before you vote and please vote.

Finally I wish to thank those of you who accepted my request to deliver newsletters. As a result of those stepping up we now have almost full coverage for delivery of our newsletters. In addition to the paper copy of our newsletter we are also going to post it on Nextdoor Neighbors Wards Corner where we have almost 200 people signed up for our civic league. We also post the newsletter on [www.wardsconer.com](http://www.wardsconer.com). Enjoy!!

I hope to see you at the Denby Park meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please enjoy this edition of the Wards Corner Civic League newsletter. Our newsletter editor puts a lot of effort in producing our great newsletters.

Thanks,



### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>Police Non-Emergency</b>	<b>441-5610</b>
<b>Pace Officer</b>	<b>252-207-4361</b>
<b>Police Red Sector</b>	<b>664-6914</b>
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>664-6532</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>683-2712</b>
<b>Sewer Backup</b>	<b>823-1000</b>
<b>Waste Management (Call here for large pickups)</b>	<b>441-5813</b>
<b>Norfolk Cares Call Center (Don't know what office to call on the problem?)</b>	<b>664-6510</b>
<b>Police Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>

### TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$1,967.04</b>
<b>+ funds received</b>	<b>\$315.</b>		
<b>- funds disbursed</b>		<b>\$186.11</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$2,095.93</b>

### NEWS AND NOTES

**We are grateful for the response to our request for additional help in delivering our monthly newsletters. Several of our current delivers agreed to take on additional areas, and three new people have volunteered. This will now enable us to deliver almost all of our newsletters.**

**Thanks for volunteering!**

## NEWS AND NOTES (cont'd)

**Our Wards Corner Civic League had a clean-up on Saturday, September 26, at 8:00 AM. Due to the inclement weather and rain, no volunteers attended. However, our leader, Ray Duron, took it upon himself to gather 10 bags of litter. He also took time to spruce up the plant area at our Adopt-a Spot by trimming the area with a lopper and pulling weeds. It looks good for now. Some of the items gathered were 56 plastic empty water bottles, 1 golf ball, numerous paper cups, 15 empty beer bottles, 6 beer cans, numerous potato chip and fast food bags, paper plates, and plastic grocery bags. Most of these items were picked up at the railroad crossing area at the north end of Ruthven. However, if we don't have others who volunteer to help, this tradition will not be able to continue. If you want to learn more about our clean-ups, please contact Ray Duron at 423-4337.**

### Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

September 21, 2015

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 6:45PM in NFW Center. President Jim English welcomed 27 guests and members, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Community Resource Officer Wm Old gave stats of criminal activity since June (our previous meeting): 3 aggravated assaults, 7 burglaries, 5 larcenies (auto parts and in a building), 4 shop lifting, 4 motor vehicle thefts. Much discussion occurred from neighbors concerned about Friday late night disturbing noise, multiple parked cars, litter, and people entering and leaving one particular house on Maycox and Cedar Level. The owners have an unruly unleashed pit bull. The police have been called multiple times but activity persists. No zoning violation was found. Neighbors were advised to call 911. Police will follow through seeking a solution.

Rick Dempsey, Utilities, updated a report on Burleigh sewer replacement. 2-3" asphalt will be a resurface rather than cement. Maycox is next with Spring 2016 the targeted completion date. Concerns about noise, dirt, and construction vehicle activity at the North Shore and Cedar Level site

should abate by Spring 2016 as there are 3 crews working on connections. 200 block of North Shore storm drainage is a continual problem.

Norfolk Forester, Michael Nentwich, was the invited speaker.. He came to Norfolk from the Houston area. There are grants available to replace trees lost in storms. Tree planting season is Fall to Spring. Utility work has defaced some trees. It is a misdemeanor to remove trees on city property (\$100 per inch) or to "crepe murder" trees (\$150 per tree). We are encouraged to cut the suckers at the base. There are 80,000 street trees (36 square miles), 50% are crepe myrtles. To attain 40% canopy, 150,000 plantings are needed. 5000 trees are pruned each year on request. Call 664-6510 to have permission to plant in the public space....10 ft from driveway, utility and light poles.

Inquiries were made about the installment of stop signs at Cedar Level, North Shore, Maycox, etc. requested months ago. Follow-up will be sought with Councilman Protogyrou.

The meeting adjourned with a reminder of a candidate forum on October 19.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan S Griffey, Secretary

### 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/Newslet- ter 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>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Barbara Ross</b>	<b>739-3600</b>
<b>Member-at-large</b>	<b>Scott Guirlinger</b>	<b>489-3938</b>

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

### Membership

***Please help to support your Civic League by paying your 2015 dues.***

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

***Our current membership is 93 households. Send your check with your name, address, phone and e-mail to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505 or bring it to a meeting.***