



## WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

# CROSSROADS

Serving: Colony Point, Hariton Gardens, Merridale,  
Pinehurst, Restmere, Rose Gardens, Sussex of Norfolk,  
Virginia Gardens and Wexford Terrace

March 2007 Web site [www.Wardscorner.com](http://www.Wardscorner.com)

### CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

March 19, 2007

7:00 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS  
CENTER

#### Agenda

NORFOLK COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE  
SHARON M. MCDONALD

*Potential issues for discussion with Sharon McDonald could be:*

- *The DMV Select program which allows you to conduct most DMV functions at City Hall*
- *Free state income tax assistance*
- *Sales and revenue figures for Wards Corner area*
- *How tax revenues impact the Norfolk city budget*
- *Real estate tax relief for senior and disabled citizens*
- *Business licensing and business personal property taxes*

#### Important Phone Numbers

Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	664-6921
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

#### RALLIES TO Promote 2007 Great American Cleanup

Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB) invites volunteers to improve the quality of life in Norfolk as they clean up litter-strewn streets and waterways, and fix up and beautify public spaces during Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest annual community improvement program, March 24<sup>th</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Civic organizations, youth groups, businesses and individuals are encouraged to roll up their sleeves and support clean communities. Interested in being a group leader or zone captain? Call 441-1347 or go to [www.norfolkbeautiful.org](http://www.norfolkbeautiful.org) to volunteer.

Events include:

- Keep Norfolk Beautiful Day – March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Earth Day Cleanup – April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Norfolk Electronic Recycling Day April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Clean the Bay Day – June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Clean City Cookout/Awards Ceremony – June 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

*Remember the Great American Cleanup kick-off on March 24. Our Adopt-a-Spot group will meet at the corner of Ruthven Avenue and W. Little Creek Road at 8:00 AM to clean that area. We spend an hour, and really appreciate additional help.*

*Questions? Call Ray Duron-423-4337*

#### ARE YOU A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

Here are a couple thoughts about "neighborliness"

-Get to know your neighbors. Welcome newcomers and help each other with issues that support block security, such as looking after one another's homes when a neighbor is away, taking in their newspapers, mail, and trash receptacles.

-Beautifying our homes and yards-it doesn't have to be elaborate, but just keeping our homes neat and tidy. Rake up yard debris, trim or remove overgrown shrubs, clean or replace gutters, repair peeling paint, clean mildew from siding, plant some flowers.

## TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

*This program is to encourage major improvement of residential properties. It offers you, the taxpayer, an opportunity to improve your home and not pay the full taxes on those improvements for 14 years. The abatement starts at the beginning of the tax quarter immediately following completion of the rehabilitation. The rehab must be done on an existing structure 15 years or older, and it must increase the assessed value by at least 20 percent. The work cannot begin until receipt of an approval letter from the City Assessor and all building permits are issued. Detached garages, swimming pools, spas, fences, sheds, etc. will not be considered for abatement. For more information, contact the **Office of the Real Estate Assessor at 664-4732** or the **Neighborhood Design and Resource Center at 664-6770**.*

### **Norfolk Animal Laws to protect our pets and people**

- No more than 4 dogs and 4 cats per household.
- Dogs and cats over 4 months old are required to have a current Rabies Vaccination and a City Pet License.
- If your animal defecates on someone else's property (including City Property), by law you **Must** remove it.
- Animals cannot run loose while off your property (except in Norfolk's Dog Parks).
- It's against the law to continually chain a dog for more than **2 hours at a time**. You must provide outside dogs with food, water and shelter.
- If your animal bites or scratches someone, you must report this to the Norfolk Health Department (683-2712). The animal must be carefully watched for 10 days to ensure no sign of rabies or other dangers exist.

**Norfolk Animal Management Center - 555 Saber Road-Phone 664-7387**

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

February 26, 2007

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, February 26, 2007 in the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. Date changed because of the Presidents Day Holiday.

President Jim English opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

He introduced our invited Speaker, Cheryl Sharp, from the Office of Public Education for Norfolk Fire and Rescue/Homeland Security. She addressed the increased occurrence of home fires stating some causes : kerosene and space heaters , fireplaces, hazards in cooking (unattended pots, unsupervised children, electrical fires, microwave flare ups), electrical cords, candles, turkey fryers, room deodorizers, old appliances, gas furnace (CO2 poisoning), electric blankets, old wiring, overloaded circuits. When a fire occurs, we are advised to call 911 and leave the house. Please check smoke alarms monthly. Keep ceramic heaters 3 feet away from everything. Oil filled space heaters are the type recommended. There are NHRA grants for electrical system assessments. Practice family fire drills....have 2 ways out of the room, a meeting place, and smoke detector. Check Norfolk.gov. (Fire rescue) for further tips.

Our PACE officer was a no show. Change of meeting date due to the holiday was the presumed reason for absence.

Concerns voiced by members were: 2 Rebel Road break-ins, corner high shrubs, truancy of Granby High students noticed in neighborhoods, multiple empty storefronts in Martone property, payday lending, graffiti on a Maycox Avenue building, bank robbery at aLantic Bank, Riverview Terrace apartment renovation (condos rather than apartments will be built, closure of Warren /Harvard Streets west of Newport, slow phase-in of 48 units, beginning closest to the water) , SPSA negative article in VAPilot ( we pay less than fifty cents a day for waste) , Titustown Redevelopment, potholes, No U Turn and mailbox site at Post Office, Grantham Avenue one way and demolished church site development.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Griffey, Secretary

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balance			<u>\$1317.17</u>
+ funds received	\$30.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			<u>\$1278.92</u>

## 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

### *TODAY!*

(continued from last month)

6. **Be green in your yard** If you use a power mower, make sure it is a mulching mower to reduce grass clippings. Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage that you send to landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
7. **Buy cars smart** Before buying a new or used vehicle (or even before renting a vehicle), check out EPA's Green Vehicle Guide and the jointly-run EPA/DOE Fuel Economy Guide. These resources provide information about the emissions and fuel economy performance of different vehicles.
8. **Drive smart** Many factors affect the fuel economy of your car. To improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, go easy on the brakes and gas pedal, avoid hard accelerations, reduce time spent idling and unload unnecessary items in your trunk to reduce weight.
9. **Give your car a break** Use public transportation, carpool or walk or bike whenever possible to avoid using your car. Leaving your car at home just two days a week will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,590 pounds per year.
10. **Combine your trips** When running errands, combine trips. Several short trips taken while your car's engine is cold can use twice as much fuel and produce twice the amount of greenhouse gas emissions as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.

### WCCL MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues are \$5.00. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you are a continuing member and you have not renewed your membership for 2007, please submit your payment at a meeting or mail to the Treasurer, Ray Duron, at 530 Sterling Street, 23505. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### AMERICA'S ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

*Tickets are now on sale for America's Anniversary Weekend, the premiere event of America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The three –day festival will be held on May 11-13, 2007, and marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the 1607 founding of Jamestown, Virginia, as America's first permanent English Settlement. Commemorative moments, cultural events, museum galleries, interpretive demonstrations, interactive exhibits, original productions and family friendly programs will be offered at Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement and Anniversary Park. Guests may purchase state-specific, single-day tickets at \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 6-12. Children under six are free. Anniversary Weekend tickets and accommodations are available through Colonial Williamsburg-the official hotels of the commemoration-and may be reserved in advance at [www.Americas400thanniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thanniversary.com).*

*Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, The Duke of Edinburgh, have announced their plans for a state visit to the United States in May 2007 in conjunction with America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. However, specifics of her itinerary, including whether she will attend America's Anniversary Weekend, have not been confirmed.*

*"Anniversary Weekend is the result of a decade of planning, and provides America and the world with an opportunity to salute our traditions representative government, free enterprise and cultural diversity that started here at Jamestown," said Jamestown 2007 Executive Director Jeanne Zeidler.*

*Planners are limiting event attendance to 90,000 visitors over the three-day festival to ensure that all guests can enjoy the full Jamestown experience. Each ticket provides bus transportation to and from satellite parking areas and admission to Jamestown Settlement, Historic Jamestowne and Anniversary Park for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Some sites may be temporarily closed to the public during the three –day event for private functions or operational programming associated with the commemoration. More details are available on the website.*

### WCCL Website

**Keep checking our Website. There's a variety of information that you can easily access from it. Want a map of the Wards Corner Civic League area? You can see it on the WEB. Did you lose your last newsletter with that important article you wanted to save? It's on the Website! [www.wardscorner.com](http://www.wardscorner.com)**