



Wards Corner Civic league

## *Crossroads*

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

March 2006

### CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

**MONday**

**March 20, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

**NORfolk Fitness and wellness center**

#### **Agenda**

**Delegates Paula miller and Kenneth  
alexander**

**senator nick rerras**

**discussion of this year's general assembly  
actions**

Presidents Message

By Jim English [jenglish@odu.edu](mailto:jenglish@odu.edu)

The civic league meetings for the next two months should be interesting and are extremely important. I have invited our Virginia Legislators to the March meeting to discuss the proceedings of this year's General Assembly Session. This is an extremely important year for Virginia and Hampton Roads and hopefully decisions will be made that will positively begin to improve our local congested transportation system. If action is not taken, the Hampton Roads area could be designated a non-attainment area by the EPA for air pollution. That will have an increasing negative impact on our wallets and our health. Senator Rerras and Delegates Miller and Alexander have been invited to inform us on this and other important general assembly issues. As of this writing Paula Miller has confirmed. In April we will have the candidates for Mayor and Ward 1 who are running in the May election. All have been invited and so far Mayor Fraim, Councilman Don Williams and Ward 1 opponent Barbara Saunders have accepted my invitation to speak. If you haven't met these candidates this is an excellent opportunity to do so and ask questions of them.

Two interesting tools have been made available to Norfolk citizens recently that show an increase in transparency by our local government. All code and crime statistics are now available on the cities website. Both of these tools have been long requested by several

organizations including our civic league and the Wards Corner Partnership. The Neighborhood Preservation Department very recently began posting its code violation activity by street address on its website. To access this site go to: <http://gis.norfolk.gov/> and click on Neighborhood Mapper to view. After it loads, you then may go to our civic league area or any other place you desire and call up the code violations under action by address. You may also do the same for the crime statistics for the city. Simply go to: [http://www.norfolk.gov/neighborhood\\_offenses/default.asp](http://www.norfolk.gov/neighborhood_offenses/default.asp) and click on the date you want to see and the Planning District box and scroll down to Wards Corner. Here you can see the offenses that have occurred in our area. Many of us have been asking for this for some time now. While it isn't perfect, it is a start to following the code and crime statistics in our area.

As a follow-up to our February meeting, I recently received a letter from the Division of Transportation –Smart Traffic Center regarding the traffic signal timings along the Little Creek Road corridor from Diven Street to Old Ocean View Avenue. A timing signal study has been conducted in this area and based on the analysis new signal timing will be installed in this area in the near future. The proposed new traffic signal timings are projected to decrease the amount of delay a driver experiences along Little Creek Road. Perhaps this will remove *some* of the traffic along that corridor that is cutting through our neighborhood, particularly on the south side for the Burleigh, Maycox and North Shore Avenues. Let's hope!

The Commissioner of Revenue recently released the 2005 Revenue and Sales report. It is a survey of total sales, retail sales and tax revenue generated for 42 districts throughout the city. It includes the Wards Corner and Southern Shopping Center Districts. Here is the good news and the bad news. For Wards Corner, the total number of businesses was down by 40 from 335 to 295 since 2004, but the total tax revenue generated was up by 8.73% from 3.8 million to 4.1 million. This is slightly above the total city tax revenue generated increase, which was 7.47%. Overall the Wards Corner Business District is generating more revenue with fewer businesses than 2004 and more percentage wise than the city as a whole. Good news but not sure why, except to say that we are possibly seeing higher quality

businesses in the area. For the Southern Shopping Center area the trend is reversed. The number of businesses was up by 20 from 274 to 294 but the total tax revenue generated was down by 0.81% from 2.97 million to 2.44 million. To me, this clearly shows the negative impact the blighted areas along the East Little Creek Road corridor between Wards Corner and Southern Shopping Center are having on the entire area. While I am glad to see revenue improving in Wards Corner despite the downturn of the number of businesses (particularly the blighted Northeast corner of Wards Corner), I am disappointed to see the decrease (although slight) in the Southern Shopping Center area. Perhaps with the opening of the new Super Wal-Mart in the fall of 2006 more quality businesses will be attracted to the area. The folks in the City Development Department tell us that we can expect that to happen in the future. Once again, let's hope so!

Thanks to all for re-electing the officers of the Wards Corner Civic League in February, and welcome to Joan Griffey as she becomes our new Secretary. We appreciate your confidence in us. A special thanks goes to Barbara Ross for continuing to be our unsung hero as the newsletter editor.

Thanks, Jim English

**Transportation Follow-up**

Guzin Akan has provided additional information as follow-up to the concerns that were expressed at our meeting in February.

**Little Creek Road between Ruthven and Granby**

Speeding-forwarded to the Police Department for enforcement

Potholes-forwarded to Streets and Bridges Division (Jim Checkowitch)

HRT speeding buses-HRT contacted and teams sent to monitor speeding

Through truck traffic-NIT contacted-they continue to inform truck drivers about the restriction; signage is being reviewed to replace missing and make others more visible; forwarded to police for enforcement

**Speeding/cut-through at 100-500 blocks of Burleigh, 100-300 blocks of Maycox, and Bradford between Victory and Newport**

Counts will be obtained by late April in the 200-500 blocks of Burleigh and 200 block of Maycox

**"No Parking Here to Corner" sign at Granby and Warren**

Field investigation scheduled

**Keep the Lights On!**

Dominion Power does not look for street light outages; they depend on their customers to report them. While Norfolk Public Works employees do make periodic checks, they mostly rely on us consumers to notify them when there is an outage. When calling one in, you will need to have the following information available:

- Closet address and street name
- 9 digit pole number starting with "NO"
- Type of problem (light completely out, flickering or damaged)

To report, use either of these options:

- Call Dominion Power-1-888-667-3000, option 1
- City Website-http://www.Norfolk.gov/publicworks/streetlights.asp and complete street light form

Please remember to keep our lights burning-they deter crime.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balance			\$1166.99
+ funds received	\$175.00		
-funds disbursed	\$68.25		
Ending Balance			<b><u>\$1276.74</u></b>

**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 2006, 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.

<p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Phone #:</b> _____</p> <p><b>E-mail</b> _____</p>
--

Do you have ideas for our newsletter or topics for our civic league meetings? E-mail Barbara Ross, [Bookworms@whro.net](mailto:Bookworms@whro.net) with your thoughts.

**Keep Norfolk Beautiful**

Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB) volunteers will 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 Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest annual community improvement program, March 25th thru June 10th. Events include Keep Norfolk Beautiful Days (March 25th), Earth Day (April 22nd), Electronic Recycling Day (May 20th), and Clean the Bay Day (June 10th). Civic organizations, youth groups, businesses and individuals are encouraged to roll up their sleeves and support clean communities. To volunteer, call 441-1347, or go to [www.norfolkbeautiful.org](http://www.norfolkbeautiful.org).

As an exciting addition, this year's local spokesperson is David Wright, Hampton Roads native and third baseman for the New York Mets! Sponsored by HRClean, public service announcements showcasing Wright's support of the campaign will begin airing in March. In 2006, the Great American Cleanup is expected to involve close to 3 million people, volunteering more than 8 million hours to clean, beautify and improve 15,000 communities during 30,000 events from coast to coast in all 50 states. Activities will include beautifying parks and recreation areas, cleaning seashores and waterways, handling recycling collections, picking up litter, planting trees and flowers, and conducting educational programs and litter-free events. Last year in Norfolk, 7400 volunteers collected more than 77,000 pounds of litter and debris! In addition, according to a 2005 Keep America Beautiful survey, 92 percent of Great American Cleanup organizers noted that their communities, neighborhoods and residents felt safer after volunteers united to clean and beautify the local environment.

The Norfolk Environmental Commission is a non-profit organization and a branch of the City of Norfolk Department of Public Works. Its mission is to lead citizens toward environmental stewardship. The Commission, local organizer of the Great American Cleanup, is supported by the Friends of Norfolk's Environment and the City of Norfolk. Keep America Beautiful, Inc., established in 1953, is the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. This national nonprofit forms public-private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments.

The Great American Cleanup is the organization's signature program that mobilizes millions of volunteers to improve their communities through

hands-on participation. For more information, visit [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org).

**And, join the WCCL clean-up at our "Adopt-a-Spot" area, corner of Ruthven and W. Little Creek Roads on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 7:30 AM. Contact Ray Duron, 423-4337 for more details!**

**AND MORE INFORMATION ON  
BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS...**

**Wards Corner Taskforce Committee**

The Beautification Committee originated in November of 2001 with the goal of "keeping Wards Corner looking good!" We had committed members who wanted the area where we shop and drive through to be up to code, colorful, clean and safe. The group welcomes any concerned citizen to contribute good ideas and able hands to accomplish our goals.

**Our beautification issues with results are:**

- 1) irrigation system , seasonal plants and green shrubs in the medians of Granby Street
- 2) colorful mermaid flags near the HRT transit station
- 3) two Wards Corner Gateway signs at Granby Street/North Shore Road/Taussig Boulevard
- 4) litter awareness
- 5) 40+ trees planted in median between Wards Corner and Southern Shopping Center.

**Actions now being implemented:**

- 1) newly designed green neighborhood signs replacement
- 2) red brick pavers at crosswalks in the business district
- 3) mast arm traffic poles eliminating unsightly overhead wires

**Items underway:**

- 1) replace unattractive damaged green fencing in median with black iron fencing
- 2) continue litter prevention program with business owners
- 3) dumpster issues

With more volunteers we can tackle the Titustown intersection of Divan Street/W. Little Creek Road and the Thole Street medians.

Come join this committee...we need you!!! Contact Elyse Kalfus or Joan Griffey ([t.jgriffey@verizon.net](mailto:t.jgriffey@verizon.net))