



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

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

September, 2006

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

September 18, 2006

7:00 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

Mayor Paul Fraim

City of Norfolk

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim English jenglish@odu.edu

The summer of 2006 was perhaps the fastest summer that I have ever experienced in my memory. I think I was away from home more than I was here this summer, particularly July and August. I hope your summer was a little slower and relaxing. As the summer rapidly comes to a close, I find myself sitting at home at the beginning of the Labor Day weekend listening to Ernesto deliver its pounding and seemingly unrelenting rain on my windows. Glad it is not another Isabelle. I hope your summer was great and you are now ready to begin the fall activities. With fall fast approaching, school is in session and the Wards Corner Civic League will begin holding its regular meetings again beginning with our meeting on September 18th to be held at the new Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. While we have not had a meeting in two months, the board members and members of our civic league have been busy working on issues to make our area better.

A special thanks is in order to our State Senator Nick Rerras for providing us with the flags and cards on the fourth of July. He delivered 1000 flags to us this year, and thanks to Ray Duron and his team of flag deliverers, we staked these flags throughout our civic league area early on the Fourth of July. I hope you enjoyed them. The area looked great with all of the flags throughout. I also want to thank again Martin Thomas Jr. for getting our civic league website www.wardscorner.com up and running. Take a look. He will manage this site for us and we hope to provide you with more information through this site. Thanks also to Ray and his litter picker uppers group for continuing to clean up our Adopt-a-Spot at Ruthven and W. Little Creek Road.

There are a couple of pieces of information that I would like to share with you that we have learned about over the summer. First and foremost, a new condominium complex will be coming to the site of the property currently occupied by the church at Grantham and Restmere Roads. The executive board met with the developer, Covington Associates, over the summer. We are satisfied that this project will have a positive influence on our neighborhood. They have passed the approval of the Planning Commission and City Council as of the last week of August. Demolition of the church property and construction of the condominium project should start soon. In conjunction with this project we have requested that Grantham Road be made into a one-way street west from Sterling to Restmere to ease the traffic problems in that area and have been assured that this will indeed happen. Secondly, the city's Division of Transportation has evaluated the intersection of Maycox Avenue and Ruthven Road based on citizen and civic league concerns, and determined that STOP signs are needed at that intersection. They are currently waiting our comments regarding this installation. Unless we hear to the contrary, we will notify them that we agree with this assessment. I will contact them after the September civic league meeting with our recommendation. Unless there is an outcry of objection from citizens affected by these STOP signs I will contact them as to our approval. If you have a concern with this, please contact me or come to the civic league meeting on September 18th to let us know if you are against STOP signs at this intersection.

Two other issues that we are following closely are the approval and location of tattoo parlors in neighborhoods and "Payday Lending Stores". We are adamantly opposed to both of these types of establishments in our neighborhood or any neighborhood in Norfolk. The lifting of the ban on Tattoo Parlors and locating them in neighborhoods will soon be voted on by city council. While the ban may be lifted it appears that there are enough votes to not zone them into shopping centers adjacent to neighborhoods, but rather locate them into industrial areas. We will keep pushing our council members to NOT ALLOW them into shopping centers adjacent to neighborhoods. I advise all citizens to do the same and contact Mayor Fraim and Councilmen Winn and Williams of our concerns with these establishments. Regarding "Payday Lenders", The Virginia Partnership to Encourage Responsible Lending (VaPERL) is hard at work working with State Legislators to pass legislation to ban these type of establishments. Elyse Kalfus is the Tidewater Representative to VaPERL and I have asked her to speak about this issue at our October meeting. Please become familiar with this issue at www.VirginiaFairLoans.org and become informed about these undesirable establishments.

I am pleased to announce that Mayor Paul Fraim will be our speaker at the September 18th meeting. Mayor Fraim is the newly elected popular Mayor for Norfolk, and this is your chance to come and meet him, hear his message and ask him questions you may have about city issues. He is embarking on a major initiative to strengthen the lines of communication between the city and its citizens. Toward that goal he plans to hold a series of Town Hall meetings in each of the city's five wards. At each meeting he will deliver a presentation on the programs underway in that particular Ward and then have a question and answer period. The Ward 1 meeting will be on October 25th from 7:00PM – 9:00PM at the Titustown Recreation Center. While his visit with us is not part of this effort it will be a chance for us to interact with him directly as a civic league. I encourage you to attend this meeting.

Lastly, we have an immediate need to fill the vacant second Vice President position for the civic league. This office is responsible for coordinating the distribution of the newsletter. If you are interested in this please contact me ASAP. Thank you and look forward to seeing you on the 18th of September and the remainder of the civic league meetings this fall.

Respectfully, Jim English

CRIME REPORTS NOW ONLINE

The Norfolk Police Department, with the cooperation of the Information Technology Department for the City of Norfolk has announced the creation of an online neighborhood crime reporting program. This program will afford city officials, civic leagues, business associations, and the general population access to crime incident data for their neighborhoods. The reports can be searched and printed by month for civic leagues or planning districts. Maps are linked to the website if questions arise concerning civic league or planning district locations. Access to this website can be found at www.norfolk.gov/police. Look for the Crime Analysis Unit under the Field Operations Section. The website will be updated every other day to provide for the most current information.

The Norfolk Police Department is committed to providing its citizens with information concerning their neighborhood. With this information, we can work together to reduce crime and build a safer, strong and stable community.

If you are not able to access this report, please contact:

Sgt. R. Franklin Allgood, Jr. OIC, Crime Analysis Unit
 Norfolk Police Department
 Frank.Allgood@norfolk.gov

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			<u>\$1366.15</u>
+ funds received	\$120.00		
-funds disbursed		\$76.93	
Ending Balance			<u>\$1409.22</u>

IDENTITY THEFT

In the annual report from the Federal Trade Commission detailing consumer complaints about fraud and identity theft in 2005, complaints about identity theft topped the list. They accounted for 255,000 of more than 686,000 complaints filed with the agency in 2005.

Tips on reducing your risk for identity theft include:

- Purchase a "Cross Cut" shredder and shred all mail and statements before discarding them in the trash
- Never give your personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call and you are sure you know to whom you are talking.
- Remember your Social Security number is the "key to the world." Anything a person needs to know about you is through your social security number. Never give it out unless absolutely necessary. Have the number removed from your checks and your driver's license.
- Also, protect your bank account and credit card numbers. Never give them out unless absolutely necessary and you initiated the call or transaction.
- Beware of purchasing items over the internet. Investigate online merchants and make sure they are legitimate before making a purchase.

If you feel you've become a victim of Identity Theft, contact the Sheriff's Office Community Affairs-Lt. Steve Duke at 441-5080 or Master Deputy Harrell at 441-2927. You should also call the Hampton Roads Regional Office of the Attorney General of Virginia at 314-2296. Make a report to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-IDTHEFT.

PARKING REMINDER

Please remember that it is not legal to park any vehicle on the lawn/grass. Violators can be reported and fined for this infraction.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Joan Griffey

June 19, 2006

- Our speakers, Scott Mahone and Brenda Feggins, were from Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. We were told to be prepared in case of disaster or hurricane. Recreation centers will serve as shelters if one is unable to exit the area (at risk are handicapped, disabled, elderly, skilled care). Information was given for evacuation routes and possible modes of transportation. Each of us is responsible to maintain a 3 day supply of emergency items such as a radio, flashlight, batteries, water, first aid kit, list of medications, contact of relatives, canned foods, and a plan for pet care/shelter. There are 1000 single homes and apartments in this civic league area possibly needing evacuation and assistance.

- Les Demmin reported damaged power poles on W. Little Creek Road and the North Shore playground equipment damage.

- Joan Griffey stated that flags for Granby High were in the budget, red painted epoxy crosswalks are finished, black iron fencing is being pursued for the medians and the green neighborhood signs are being installed throughout the city alphabetically.

- Linda Spear asked for a volunteer for Membership Vice President as she retires. A newsletter delivery chairperson is direly needed.

- Ray Duron stated 9 volunteers would place Flags for the Fourth on display in neighborhoods, courtesy of Senator Nick Rerras.

- Martin Thomas has offered to oversee our web site.

Your Civic League at Work.....

- New mermaid flags/poles will be installed in late September near Oxford Street at Granby High School.

- The red epoxy crosswalks will be resurfaced due to poor application.

- A new green neighborhood sign at Colony Point is installed with other areas pending.

- The playground equipment is being reviewed for replacement.

- The business district is trying a pilot program to diminish trash and littering with the purchase of trash receptacles to be placed near the curbs. Granby High students are asked to participate one weekend to call attention to zero trash!

- Kudos to Martin Thomas for getting us hooked onto the web! WardsCorner.com

WCCL Board of Directors

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Linda Spear	402-8583
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution		
Secretary	Joan Griffey	440-9508
Treasurer	Ray Duron	423-4337

Newsletter ideas/comments-Barbara Ross
(Bookworms@WHRO.Net or 489-1024)

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

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.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____
E-mail _____