



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

June, 2008 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING
MONDAY
June 16, 2008
6:45 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR

Deborah Bunn

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

The June meeting will mark the last meeting of the first half of the civic league year until we resume our schedule again in September. Summer is just around the corner, schools will be out and hopefully we will all enjoy some vacation time. We also hope that this summer will be great and we will once again be spared any major hurricanes just like we were last year. However, make sure you are prepared just in case. (please note some websites at the end of the newsletter.)

The topic for our June meeting will be Real Estate Assessments. Our speaker is Deborah Bunn, the Norfolk Real Estate Assessor. Since this is a hot issue for all of us, please come to our meeting on June 16th at 6:45PM at the Wellness Center to hear information about how real estate assessments are done in Norfolk.

With the delivery of the June newsletter, Linda Spear will no longer be coordinating its delivery to our newsletter carriers. I thank Linda for her dedicated service in newsletter distribution over the past 4 years. It is not an easy task, but it is an important and vital function of our civic league. This obviously leaves a big gap in our newsletter distribution. If you are interested in taking on the duties of Vice President in charge of newsletter distribution please contact me.

Over the summer please continue to enjoy the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. There are over 7000 members now. If you are not a member, please consider joining and take advantage of this facility in our back yard. Also we will be distributing Flags on the Fourth thanks to the efforts of Ray Duron and the area Boy Scouts. We need your help on this endeavor as well, so please contact Ray if you would like to help with this distribution. These flags are given to us courtesy of Senator Ralph Northam and Delegate Paula Miller. Ray, thanks for coordinating this effort. I know you and the scouts will do an outstanding job for this patriotic event.

Over the summer rest assured that the dedication and commitment of the membership of the Greater Wards Corner Partnership, Task Force, Business Association and area Civic Leagues (including and especially ours) will continue the push with our city elected officials and senior city management staff to move ahead for making the Wards Corner area great once again. We will not be taking the summer off, but will continue our important work.

If you are interested, Norfolk City Councilman Randy Wright is asking assistant City Manager Nancy Johnson to hold a joint meeting of the Mayors' Wards Corner Task Force and Ocean View Task Force at the new **Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library** in Ocean View on June 26th. Councilman Wright will make his first presentation on the "Tide" to Ocean View. Look for times in a future post on www.wardscornernow.com. Any route to Ocean View should include a rail station in Wards Corner. It is important that all concerned citizens attend this meeting.

Finally please have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer. We will continue our work to improve our area throughout the summer. We hope to see you again in the fall at our September meeting.

Thanks,

Jim English

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY'S MINUTES

May 19, 2008

Wards Corner Civic League met at 6:45PM on Monday, May 19, 2008 in NFW Center. President Jim English opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and then honored our volunteer newsletter carriers. He thanked them for their support and time and recognized those attending with a certificate and a flowering potted plant. This is a task each month to edit, write, submit to the printer, pick up, sort copies for neighborhoods and hand deliver to all 1000 residents, not inclusive only to members. Our bills are paid with the commercial ads and your dues. Special thanks to Barbara Ross, newsletter editor and to Linda Spear, collator and coordinator, for their generous service in keeping our community informed.

Our featured speakers, Carlton Ransome, Sr., Neighborhood Development Specialist, and April Reading, Public Service Coordinator, Department of Planning and Community Development, Neighborhood Design and Resource Center, presented a power point program designed to educate and assist communities with revitalizing older neighborhoods using no fee resources available to improve, expand and remodel our homes. They assist residents with architectural design solutions for major renovation and remodeling projects and neighborhood commercial facades. There are additional programs and assistance for financing, tax abatement and for curb appeal. (Entrances, landscaping, garage, porches, roof line, façade). Typical Wards Corner housing, developed 1939-1960, includes lots 60'x110' with 30'x40' setbacks, ranches, coastal cottages, cape cods. Eighty percent are 30+ years old. The City subsidizes this department to make our housing more valuable, to increase its tax base and to improve our quality of life.

PACE Officer, Curtis Jackson, reported 3 robberies, 2 burglaries, 2 larcenies. He answered questions concerning youth groups congregating near Doris Drive/Sterling, apartment issues, teens in North Shore Park, break-in on Burleigh Avenue, unattended auto on Timothy Street.

Jim Pressler, member, suggested members phone 800-453-2530 if the RR crossing gates at Ruthven Road/Terminal Boulevard are stuck in position with no train in sight. Traffic on Grantham/Restmere, near the townhouse development, is still an issue. Traffic Engineer, Gazin Akan will be notified.

President English stated that the new mast arm traffic poles at Granby Street/Little Creek Road intersection are operational (after 8 years of requests to remove unsightly overhead wiring). He announced that Senator R Northam and Delegate P. Miller will provide neighborhood USA flags for the 4th of July. An action plan for calming of traffic on Newport Avenue will be forthcoming. The water utility project is 90% finished. Repaving and brick crosswalks are in the '09 budget. Questions: why another exotic apparel store in the business area? Needed: A "No Right Turn" sign in the median at Farm Fresh? Street furniture suggested for businesses on West Little Creek Road? Les Demmin, Infrastructure Committee, presented photos of 4 eyesores in the business district, to be addressed at the Taskforce meeting on June 11. Joan Griffey, Beautification Committee, stated continuing issues of litter/glass at AJ Gators and the requested replacement of 3 green neighborhood signs.

The meeting was adjourned at 815PM.
Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Secretary

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Pace Officer	831-3484
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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership		402-8583
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution		618-6468
Secretary	Joan Griffey	440-9508
Treasurer	Ray Duron	423-4337

Web Master – Martin Thomas, Jr. (618-6468)
Newsletter ideas/comments-Barbara Ross
(Bookworms@WHRO.Net or 489-1024)

Thanks Again

If you were at May's Civic League meeting, you heard the names of our volunteer newsletter carriers read.

Those present received a potted plant (through the efforts of Linda Spear, Newsletter Distribution Coordinator), and plants were delivered to carriers who were unable to attend.

We'd like to list the members who donate time each month, September through June, to deliver newsletters to their neighbors, and thank them again for their dedication.

Bill Schumacher	Stephen Wilmer	Irene Ullman
Donna Daniel	Debbie Myers	Diane Dubay
Laura Sizzle	Jim English	Sue Bunting
Dee Stowell	Joan/Tom Griffey	Dee Dorman
Donald Nash	Judy Eichelbaum	Jennifer Mack
Charlie Beckwith	Linda Spear	Gary Ashburne
Ray/Betty Duron	Mary Edwards	Martin Thomas
Jim Pressler	Clem Blanco	Henry Chandler
Patrick O'Hear	Greg Kretzer	

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1741.32
+ funds received	\$20.00		
-funds disbursed		\$127.65	
Ending Balance			\$1633.67

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 2008, 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 #:

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

If you noticed two empty spaces in our Board of Directors' listing, you realize that our VP of Membership, Linda Spear, and VP of Newsletter Distribution, Martin Thomas, Jr. have resigned.

While we are sad that Linda and Martin are no longer so ably filling these positions, we are excited because it provides the opportunity for some other civic league members to take a more active role.

The responsibilities for the positions include:

First VP-Membership-maintain/update our membership database and work with the other Board members to determine possible methods to increase membership.

Second VP-Newsletter Distribution-newsletter pick-up from the printer, collating and delivering it to carriers for distribution in their local neighborhoods.

Please consider helping your Civic League!

News and Notes

Don't forget-your help is needed to pickup litter at our Adopt-a-Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek) on Saturday, June 14, 8:00 AM. Questions-call Ray Duron-423-4337

Also, Clean Our Corner Day.

Each quarter, members of our Wards Corner community come together to enjoy one another's company, meet new neighbors—and have Fun!— as we clean our Corner. Check-in time (with coffee and pastries) is 8-8:30 on Saturday, June 14. Meet at the North Shore Sports and Physical Therapy(7419 Granby St.) next to ATC Fitness. RSVP to Laura Thom at 489-5820. Rain date is June 21.

Some websites for Disaster Preparedness
www.vaemergency.com (VA Dep't. of Emergency Management)

www.vdh.state.va.us (VA Dep't. Health)

www.fema.gov (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

www.redcross.org (American Red Cross)