



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

**SERVING: COLONY POINT, HARBON GARDENS, MERRIDALE, PINEHURST,
RESMERE, ROSE GARDENS, SUSSEX OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA GARDENS AND
WEXFORD TERRACE**

DECEMBER, 2008 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

**December 15, 2008
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

**Agenda
Speaker To Be Announced
Holiday Party**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors, Holiday Greetings to all. The holiday season is once again upon us. It is a time for great anticipation, reflection and joy as all of us celebrate our respective traditions and religions. It is also a time that we need to reflect on those in our community, city, nation and world who may not be celebrating a joyful season and to reach out to them when and if we can do so. Helping those who are in need or are shut-in is perhaps the best gift we can give them. Thinking of those fighting a war in the far away Middle East and helping or assisting their families if needed is the best way we as neighbors can support them. As we gather with our own families this holiday season, let us not forget that there are those folks out there who may not be able to celebrate. They need our thoughts and prayers. A simple smile, hello, or can I help you goes a long way to show them that someone cares. Let us also pray that all of our City, State and National leaders make sensible and responsible decisions for all of the residents of Norfolk, Virginia and the United States in the coming year.

Again this year, instead of my normal message, I thought I would use the space to share with you some old and new ideas on going "green" for this holiday season-ways to protect our environment. I am a firm believer that environmental protection leads to the betterment of the public's health through sound environmental practices. I also believe we all can do

something, if ever so small, to make a difference in protecting our environment for everyone. The following is taken in part from "Go Green This Holiday Season: Have an Eco Friendly Christmas" by © S. Elliott

"Christmas is a holiday noted for conspicuous consumption. Show your respect for the planet by adopting some new Christmas traditions this year. Going green is becoming more popular, but even more important, it's good sense: for you, your family, and the entire world.

Christmas Cards that Protect the Environment

Let's face it; most Christmas cards end up in landfill. They can be loving reminders to people far away, but this year why not consider sending e-cards to loved ones who have computers. That way you can send loving thoughts of the season while showing your love for the planet.

Holiday Wrapping Paper and the Environment

I don't think there is anyone who hasn't had a moment's pause when disposing of all of that wrapping paper the day after Christmas. What a waste. This year, why not try wrapping smaller gifts with fabric. There are thousands of Christmas fabrics available that can be cut with pinking shears (so they don't ravel) and used to wrap smaller gifts.

These decorative wraps can be used year after year. The average bolt of cotton fabric is 42" to 45" wide, and many seasonal fabrics are very reasonably priced. Fabric makes a unique and impressive presentation when used to dress a gift, and it is also good for the environment. Or look for recycled and recyclable papers for gift-wrapping paper. Also try other ideas like giving baskets, reusable gift boxes and bags.

LED lights. Look for Christmas tree lights and outdoor lights that are LED. You will save on energy and get more hours of use from environmentally friendly LED light bulbs. Turn off lights when you're not around.

LED Candles. Invest in a few LED candles to strategically place around the home. They are safer, last longer and don't let off dangerous fumes, lead, etc.

Switch to Soy Candles. Soy candles are healthier and provide a "green" alternative, especially for the winter holiday season.

Don't use disposable plastics. This year, if you're inviting friends over for Christmas, forget the disposable plastics and Styrofoam. Use the real thing!

Recycling Bin. If you happen to use some supplies during the holidays that can be recycled, be sure to put a recycling bin in the room so people will use it, rather than throwing those items in the trash.

Buy Local at Christmas. It is a good practice to get into the habit of buying local. When you buy local seasonal produce or buy from local artisans, you are saving on packaging and transportation costs.

Your Christmas Tree. There is some controversy over whether an artificial or real tree is the most environmentally responsible way to go, but it is a sure bet that if you buy a living tree that you are planning on planting after the holiday, you'll be doing the planet a favor.

When you shop for a living tree, select one that will grow in your area and can be kept in a pot outdoors until your ground thaws in spring. Plan on bringing your living tree indoors no more than a week before Christmas, and put it back outdoors right after Christmas. If you live in an apartment, or don't have room in your yard for an evergreen, check into the option of donating it to a local rest home or children's center after the holiday. If you opt for a cut tree, try to locate a lot that sells trees that are locally grown, and recycle it after the holiday.

Christmas Gifts. If you are buying electronic gifts to replace items in your home, dispose of old electronic components and batteries responsibly. Whenever possible, purchase gifts that are made from recycled materials or from retailers that support eco-friendly businesses.

Consider making a eco-aware donation on a gift recipient's behalf this year. Teaching someone the value of giving is a great gift in itself.

Energy Awareness Over the Holidays. Cut back on your Holiday lighting. It's tempting to want to share your Holiday spirit with the neighborhood, but consider the ways in which the energy might be better spent.

Use good energy conservation practices in your kitchen by monitoring your use of the oven and controlling how long you leave your refrigerator door open. This seems like a small thing, but waste adds up.

Holiday Food. Don't buy more food than you can eat. Use leftover vegetables to make soup after the holiday. If you have extra, you might consider sharing by donating it to a local charity or soup kitchen. Going green is an every day commitment, but you can make a start during the holidays. Give a gift to the planet and everyone who lives on it by being ecologically conscious."

Last year my family bought a great artificial tree instead of a real tree for the very first time. We look forward to putting it up again this year.

From my family to yours, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season with the best of wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Thanks, Jim English



WCCL MEMBERSHIP

Help your Civic League by paying your annual dues. Even if you're not able to attend meetings, please send a check for \$5.00 to Ray Duron (\$10/two household members). This helps support payments for our newsletter printing and other expenses that arise throughout the year. Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you are a continuing member, it's time to think of renewing for 2009. Ray's address is 530 Sterling Street, 23505. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.

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

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	402-8583
2 nd VP/ Newsletter Distribution	Sue Classick	489-2315
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)

News and Notes

Turn your Holiday Lights on by 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 21st. Our drive-by judges will determine the winners of the annual Holiday Home Decoration Contest. Winners will be announced in January.



Thanks to our Adopt-A-Spot volunteers who helped in our continued efforts to "keep Norfolk beautiful" on November 22. They were Stephanie Gallagher, Shawna Gallagher, Barbara Ross, and our "Adopt-a-Spot" leader, Ray Duron.



Town Hall Meeting

Please join Senator Ralph Northam, Delegate Paula Miller, and Delegate Linwood Lewis for a Town Hall Meeting, Monday, January 5, 2009, at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center- 6:00-8:00 PM. The Virginia General Assembly convenes on January 14, and your representatives want to hear from you before they return to Richmond. Let them know how you feel about the issues important to you.



Project Energy Serve

Visit the AARP Website at www.aarp.org/va to learn about Project Energy Serve-"a call to action to mobilize thousands of volunteers across Virginia who can give a few hours of their time to help a friend or neighbor make simple changes to their home that will result in meaningful savings to their energy bills this winter". You will find an Energy Saving Checklist and tips about how you might volunteer a few hours to help older or disabled persons and persons on fixed incomes reduce their energy costs. The checklist can also be used in your own home to reduce energy costs.



Elections will be held in January for WCCL Board Members. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

vest solicitations at Granby/Little Creek Rd. He warned us not to leave articles (GPS systems, cash, keys, shopping items) in sight in parked vehicles which entices criminals.

Our invited speaker, Norman Maas, Director of Kirn Memorial Library, explained the moving of the central library to make way for the new light rail transit. The new location is the Seaboard Building at 235 Plume Street (purchased 2007 for \$7.2 million) Frank Batten, Sr. (Landmark Communications) committed \$20 million to the new construction which will be named in honor of Samuel Slover, Batten's uncle, a former Mayor and editor of VA Pilot. The new library will have state of the art technology, access to books, local history, community meeting rooms, etc. The offices and storage facility for materials were moved to 1155 Pineridge Road.

Pres. English updated us on the 11/13/08 WC Taskforce Meeting. Newport Ave. is awaiting "rumble strips" as medians at intersections of North Shore Rd., Granby Elem. School, Oak Grove Rd., Talbot Hall Rd. and Kingsley Lane. The white lined parking areas and these strips are suggestions to calm traffic and speeding by Gazin Akan and the traffic engineers. Residents near Grantham Ave are still displeased with the disregarded one way traffic sign. Our civic league should be aware of street cleaning schedules and should move their vehicles early.

Requests for a traffic light at Ruthven Rd and Terminal Blvd. was offered. Three Alexis Apartments in Titustown have been demolished. Parking is needed at the Recreation Center. Near Albano's, Mr. Easley is moving slowly on storefront renovations. He plans retail, office and 2nd floor apartments. Rumors are Pearl Vision Shop is leaving the Martone Property (now with 9 empty storefronts). Good news: the green neighborhood signs of Wexford Terrace, Academy Terrace and Wards Corner, at the RR tracks near Wendy's are installed. We await our final sign, Merridale, near Norfolk Collegiate. 10 green trash receptacles are expected soon in the business district, thanks to WC Antilitter Committee efforts. Titustown awaits the replacement of 13 trees which did not survive the summer heat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan Griffey, Sec.

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes November 17, 2008

Wards Corner Civic League met at 6:45PM on Monday, Nov. 17, 2008 in NFW Center. Pres. Jim English welcomed all (18) and led us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Curtis Jackson (831 3484) addressed several issues: questionable truck parking and a recent shooting at Farm Fresh, a hit and run on eve of 11/15, the yellow

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1689.19
+ funds received	\$50.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1670.94