



WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE

CROSSROADS

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

APRIL 2009

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

April 20, 2009

6:45 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

Agenda

Norfolk Commissioner of the Revenue

Sharon McDonald

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Jim's message will return next month.

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

March 16, 2009

Wards Corner Civic League met at 6:45PM on Monday, March 16, 2009 in NFW Center. President Jim English opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced Delegate Paula Miller, Delegate Ken Alexander and State Senator Ralph Northam. Each of these representatives spoke of their recent term in Richmond. In attendance were 25.

Del. Miller spoke about the recent anti-smoking bill, payday lending, military absentee ballots, derelict structures, graffiti clean up fines, stimulus monies for light rail and for retaining 7000 government jobs, guns in bars and the privatization of the ports .

Del. Alexander reported that of 3000 bills introduced, 600 were passed by the General Assembly. HB1600 Budget Bill started 1July 08 at \$7.7 billion. After trimming, VA presented a balanced budget (by law). Education is not fully funded (borrowed from rainy day fund), while the stimulus package helped restore cuts. He supports early voting and absentee ballots for our military.

Sen. Northam responsibly filled 3 vacant circuit court judge seats by working with minorities in the Republican House and Democrat Senate. He championed the smoking ban in restaurants (health issues for patrons and employees), is acting with a climate change commission to decrease utilities consumption via efficiency and conservation, and sits on the tobacco settlement commission to gain \$14 million to educate youth in anti-smoking.

Questions ensued concerning utilities, environmental issues, wind farms, clean coal, transportation, stimulus package, lottery, no tax pledge, ports of HR, and oil drilling.

PACE Officer Curtis Jackson reported an increase in robberies and burglaries on North Shore, Doris, Burleigh, Lankford, Birmingham, Gloucester, Granby, Victory, and Maycox. Please remove items from the car at night (GPS systems, wallets, cash, credit cards, laptops are coveted items for thieves) There were commercial burglaries at Farm Fresh, Money Mart, 100 block of E Little Creek Road and a police chase near Armfield Circle. A Granby High student was attacked on 2/23/09 on Harvard Street by 4 males dressed in denims and white tees.

Refreshments were provided by the generosity of Board member, Sue Classick.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Sec.

WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 st VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
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)

Litter

A concern frequently mentioned at our board meetings is the litter that seems so prevalent along our roadways, in our parks, near stores and around our homes. A particular concern of mine is the plastic bags which seem to be discarded everywhere. (and I admit, I'm a plastic bag user, too.)

I'd like to share some excerpts from information I received about plastic bags and the harm they are causing to our environment, and refer you to the website for a complete presentation.

-Data released by the US Environmental Protection Agency shows that somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year.

-Less than 1% of bags are recycled. It costs more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one.

-It costs \$4,000 to process and recycle one ton of plastic bags, which can then be sold on the commodities market for \$32.

Then, where do they go?

-A study in 1975 showed ocean-going vessels together dumped 8 million pounds of plastic annually. The real reason that the world's dumps weren't over-flowing with plastic was that most of it ended up in an ocean fill.

-Bags get blown to our seas, lakes, and rivers. Bags find their way into the sea via drain and sewage pipes. Plastic bags have been found north of the Arctic Circle and as far south as the Falkland Islands. Plastic bags account for over 10% of the debris washed up on the US coastline.

-Plastic bags photodegrade. Over time they break down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers which eventually contaminate soils and waterways. As a consequence, microscopic particles can enter the food chain. The effect on wildlife can be catastrophic. Birds become terminally entangled. Nearly 200 species of sea life including whales, dolphins, seals and turtles die due to plastic bags. They die after ingesting plastic bags which they mistook for food.

So, what do we do?

-If we use a cloth bag, we can save 6 plastic bags/week. That's 24 bags/month and

288/year. That's 22,176 bags in an average lifetime. If just 1 out of 5 people did this, we would save 1,330,560,000,000 bags over our lifetime.

-Countries worldwide have banned plastic bags, and San Francisco has taken the lead in the US in adopting a ban.

-Plastic bags are made from polyethylene, a thermoplastic made from oil. Reducing plastic bags will decrease foreign oil dependency. China will save 37 billion gallons of oil each year due to their ban of free plastic bags.

It is possible! Say "no" to plastic bags.

Please check the website below for more complete information and some startling pictures that highlight the dangers in the use of plastic bags.

www.PoconoRecord.com/PoconoGreen

click on Sideshow-the Turtle picture

WCCL MEMBERSHIP

CHEERS!!! Our membership has now reached **100!!**

Thanks to all those who have sent their check for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members) to Ray Duron.

Do we dare challenge ourselves to extend our goal to 125 members-or more?

Our dues' year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you are a continuing member, it's not too late to renew for 2009. Ray's address is 530 Sterling Street, 23505.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

e-mail _____

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1950.02
+ funds received	\$80.00		
-funds disbursed		\$78.35	
Ending Balance			\$1951.67

News and Notes

We want to thank our civic league members and the volunteers from BSA Troop 189 who supported our civic league on the March 28th Keep Norfolk Beautiful clean-up. Participating were Maynard, Nathaniel and Natalie Schaus; Jacob, Joshua and Mrs. Lora Rooker; Stepahnie Gallagher, and Ray and Betty Duron. We filled 11 bags with litter, plus picking up an old tire and auto parts. If you didn't participate this year, please join us at the next clean-up-to keep Norfolk Beautiful.

April is Pothole Month. If you see a particularly unsightly or dangerous one in your travels, call 823-4050 to report it.

Can you donate 30-45 minutes/month to your Civic League? We need some people to deliver newsletters on several streets north of Little Creek Road. The streets are Timothy, Fayver, and Bradford. Please contact Sue Classick, our VP in charge of Newsletter Distribution, at 489-2315. It's good exercise, it helps you meet your neighbors and get a new perspective on your neighborhood, and it's so appreciated by those who enjoy receiving the news about our community.

Quote of the Month

***You don't get anywhere standing on the sidelines waiting for somebody else to take action. We all have a role to play.
(from Lee Iacocca-Call to Action...Where Have All the Leaders Gone?)***

INFORMATION FROM OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

As a proactive policing measure, the Third Patrol Division has assigned a dedicated police car to the Wards Corner area in response to the rash of robberies that have occurred in the past week. There has been one attempted robbery to an individual and three individuals robbed. One business was also robbed. All the robberies have occurred late at night and are currently under investigation.

Thanks

Lt Roger Hungerford

Third Patrol

Please call Officer Jackson (831-3484) for any concerns or questions.

SEND US YOUR IDEAS!!

Your Board members are always looking for new suggestions for Board Meeting Programs.

Please e-mail any ideas to Jim English at ajim.english@gmail.com

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