



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

September 2009 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

MONDAY

September 21, 2009

6:45 PM

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

Agenda

**"What You Need to Know About
Swine H1N1 Flu"**

**Presented by John Monroe from
the Norfolk Health Department**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

The summer of 2009 is now almost in the history books as it has once again sped by very rapidly. I hope your summer was enjoyable and relaxing. I hope 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 at 6:45PM on September 21st to be held at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. While we have not had a meeting in two months our board members and members of our civic league have been busy working on issues to make our area better. This newsletter reflects some of these issues and concerns that we have been involved in and working on.

One of the highlights of my summer is the presentation of flags on the 4th of July throughout our neighborhood and the city. It is always so impressive to see all of the flags lining the streets of our neighborhood and city. It is a suitable reminder of who we are as Americans, what we represent and the sacrifices made by so many Americans over history to allow us to enjoy our liberty as a free country. We are thankful to all of those who spent their Fourth of July early morning distributing those flags for us. A special thanks are in order to Delegate Paula Miller and State Senator Ralph Northam for providing us with the flags and cards on the fourth of July. They delivered 1000 flags to us this year. Thanks also to Ray Duron and his team of flag deliverers who 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. Thank you to all who did this important patriotic activity.

This brings me to writing about showing respect for the flag. Most all of us know the Flag Code and adhere to it because that is what we learned growing up. I am very dismayed that we may not be passing this along sufficiently to today's youth. I say this because on two occasions shortly after the Fourth of July I witnessed and challenged two groups of youths who were desecrating the flags that were placed on our streets. These two groups of middle aged teens, one group of 4-5 males and another group of 4-5 females, were walking down my street and pulling out the flags from the ground, tearing off the flag and dropping it to the ground, leaving only the stick portion that they then began banging together as drumsticks. I yelled at both groups and after getting a lot of lip and backtalk from them I told them to stop and not to show themselves around my street again since I was inclined to call the police at the next instance. Of course I am cleaning this up here, but rest assured I was not happy with them at all. How discourteous they were and how they had no idea of the negative implication of their actions. I realized that their parents probably had never talked with them about how to respect the Flag. Maybe their parents don't know either, I thought. How sad.

However that wasn't the only disrespect for the flag shown this year. The following was taken from the website "American Flag Wall of Shame", <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/wallofshame.htm>. J. H. Lewis of Norfolk submitted it and it illustrates that it is not just the juveniles who show flag disrespect.



"The Fourth of July newspaper arrived on my doorstep with the advertising sticker affixed upon the image of

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

June 15, 2009

the United States Flag. This happened city (if not area) wide according to people that I have talked to. I have received a personal apology from the publisher, and the paper printed three letters concerning the advertising sticker; however the Virginian-Pilot has made no public apology for their lack of respect. I am sure the sticker was affixed at some point in the printing process, but one would think that someone, sometime before the paper was distributed would have caught the foul-up. "The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature." (Flag Code, Section 8g)"

Let's all teach our children about American Flag courtesy and report flag abuses when we see them. Our Flag deserves this honor, just as we honor those who have fought for the freedom to allow us to freely display our flag. We should not accept or expect anything less than the appropriate respect for our Flag.

On a more positive note, I am happy to report that the city's Division of Transportation has installed the much-needed stop signs in the 200 and 300 blocks of Burleigh and Maycox Avenue intersections. Thanks to a very vocal and active group of citizens in that area who petitioned the city for these signs, and with a little assistance from the civic league, the stop signs are now installed. This is a great example of citizen voice bringing about needed action. Thank you to those who championed this effort.

I want to welcome you back to another year of good productive civic league meetings. If you regularly attend our meetings, please bring a neighbor. If you have never been to a meeting or you are new to the area, please join us. A strong, active civic league like ours gives us good and continued political clout, which we have built with our council representatives to this area. We have a great fall program lined up and we hope to see you at the meetings.

Please enjoy this newsletter. Please join your civic league. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you on the 21st of September at 645PM at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center.

Sincerely,



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)

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:45PM in Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. Vice President Martin Thomas, Jr. led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed guests and our invited speaker. Twenty-one members attended.

Officer Jackson gave the crime stats for our area and answered citizen questions.

Norfolk Vice Mayor, Anthony Burfoot, spoke to our league about his driving force in accomplishments and community successes. Burfoot joined Council in 2002, became Vice Mayor in 2007, and is an employee in the City Treasurer office. He was instrumental in the Broad Creek Renaissance development, a Hope 6 federally funded \$35 million project for low/moderate income housing near Norfolk State University. This opportunity was intended to break poverty and offer tools to succeed. Ninety acres were involved, half for home ownership and half for rental. He pursued action for 1) the Kroc Center (a regional facility on 12 acres at Ballentine and Princess Anne), 2) development at the Broad Creek Station for light rail, and 3) relocation for public housing residents. President Jim English had invited Mr. Burfoot, using his model, to motivate Wards Corner residents to capture Council's attention to our increasing downward turn in the Business District. (21 empty storefronts) Burfoot stated "create; don't wait", "seek committed people and good citizenry to buy in", and "encourage someone to step up as leader". He said that the economic development in our area is not strong. ...national chains should be sought (Red Lobster, TGIF) but no one is marketing for us. There is no champion on the economic development team for Wards Corner. Why?? He also addressed blight, boarded abandoned homes, schools and gangs, neighborhood watch, the Martone property. He suggested that we develop short and long term goals and begin to engage the citizenry and Council representatives ("they do care about Wards Corner").

Vice Pres. Thomas reported that four way stop signs on Newport Avenue were being installed. The suggestion was made that these be lowered for visual impact. Norfolk Collegiate Fine Arts Building has 70% fundraising completed. The former BB&T bank will become an Old Point National Bank soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8PM until our next gathering on September 21.

Respectively Submitted,
Joan S Griffey, Secretary

WCCL Membership

Civic League membership is a bargain for \$5.00 (\$10/two household members). Send your check to Ray Duron at 530 Sterling Street, 23505.

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.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$1,925.72
+ funds received	\$45.00		
-funds disbursed		\$68.25	
Ending Balance			\$1902.47

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

News and Notes

If you have any old, worn or tattered US Flags, please bring them in to our civic league meeting so they can be disposed of properly. Boy Scout Troop 180 will dispose of them. See Ray Duron for information.

We want to thank all of our participants who helped distribute flags on the Fourth of July. The flags came to us as a courtesy of Senator Northam and Delegate Paula Miller. Our participants were Barbara Ross, Robert Lester, Mr. And Mrs. Roger Riendeau, Mr. Mitchell, Alice Vaughan, Joan Griffey, Brian Emrick, Randy Parrish, Heide Richards, Sally Spollen, Anthony Stevenson, Jenifer Gant-Brush, Jeremy McNea, Mike Harris, Diane Dubay, Mr. Alvarez, Jack Blair, Mr. Morla, Lindsay Stapleton, Helen Speight, Terri Salanimor, Mrs. Beckwith, Martin Thomas, Steven Archer, Carrie White, Mr. And Mrs. Garcia, Wallace Lee, Chris DePalma, Jim Pressler, Misty Palmer, Lisa Cohn, James Owen, Gary Ashburne, and our coordinator Ray Duron.

***Join Us!!
We Need Participants!!***

Your help is needed to pick up litter at our Adopt-a-Spot area (Ruthven and W. Little Creek Roads) on Saturday, September 26, 8:00 AM. It only takes about an hour, and makes an impressive difference in the area.

Questions?? Call Ray Duron at 423-4337.

DMV Services Available at City Hall

The office of the Norfolk Commissioner of Revenue now offers limited DMV service. They will provide help with Titles, Registration, Name and Address Changes, Special and Personalized Plates, Dealer Title and Registration Services, and Voter Registration. Services can be paid for by a major credit card.

Contact them at 664-7884 or at www.norfolk.gov/revenue.