



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

January, 2010

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

January 25, 2010
6:45 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS CENTER

Agenda

**Norfolk Collegiate Update
Proposed AJ Gator Relocation
Highlights and Successes of our
Civic League in 2009**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

It is Saturday morning January 9th, 2010 as I write this message to you. I thought about what I should write in my message over the past few days, but was coming up short on ideas until I read this morning's Virginian Pilot local section. An article on page 3, "Empty seat in Norfolk draws packed field" immediately solved that problem and prompted me to write about the issue. It discussed the announced or soon to be announced candidates for Norfolk's Ward 1 council election in May. The seat is being vacated by Don Williams. This Ward represents in part Wards Corner.

While I applaud anyone who wants to run for an elected position in Norfolk in this day and era, what concerned me immediately was the lack of candidates with any real ties or allegiances to Wards Corner. ***This should greatly concern all of you as well.*** For the first time in 8 years we, the residents of Wards Corner, have a chance to change that and elect a councilperson that shares our vision for Wards Corner, has ties to our area, and is and can be a leader who can champion the revitalization of the Greater Wards Corner area. However, after reviewing the list of candidates who are running for election, not a single person exhibits any of those qualities. At least it doesn't appear so at first glance. Let me summarize the list and my concerns.

The first person mentioned is John Hadjikakos. The Pilot writes, "John Hadjikakos, an Ocean View real estate developer who said his priorities would be to redevelop Wards Corner and Willoughby, has announced he will run." The

second person is Norma Dorey and according to the Pilot, Dorey "who owns three Ghent businesses and was former head of the Ghent Business Association, said she probably will announce her candidacy next week. She has been encouraged to run by Mayor Paul Fraim and Councilman Barclay C. Winn". Both of these candidates live in the Willoughby section of the Ward.

Chuck Brewer is mentioned as a candidate. The Pilot says, "Former Norfolk police Officer Chuck Brewer is expected to announce he will run later this month." The fourth candidate, Paul Trice, was described by the Pilot as "an Ocean View artist known as the Red Rooster, previously announced he will run."

My question is: where is the candidate for Wards Corner who indeed will represent us? The list is sorely lacking for such a candidate. Now in all fairness to those who will run I must admit I have only talked with one of those candidates – so far. Chuck Brewer did call me and indicate that he was running for the seat. He also came to our civic league meeting in December 2009 and spoke for a few minutes about his intention to run. I give him credit for calling me and coming to our meeting. That is a start for him. This is however the first time he has been at any Wards Corner citizen area meetings. ***None*** of the other candidates have ever been to any of the meetings focused on the revitalization efforts of Wards Corner, including our Civic League meetings, and any of the Wards Corner Partnership or Task Force meetings. I wonder how many other area civic league meetings in our area they have been present at up to now? I doubt any.

So with this field of candidates, it looks like we are not represented once again. All four of these candidates live in Ocean View. While Hadjikakos says one of his priorities will be Wards Corner, I wonder where his true allegiance will be since he is an Ocean View Developer. Dorey lives in Willoughby according to the article but has several businesses in Ghent and was President of the Ghent Business Association. Wonder where her allegiance will be? Brewer, who is a retired Norfolk Police Officer, does know the city, including Wards Corner. I am sure he knows some of our issues- particularly those involving crime in the area. His allegiance to our cause is only speculative at this time. Trice is a fixture in Ocean View who if I recall once ran a candidacy for election out of the once Ocean View landmark know as Rosie's Bar. He is a good artist and I have one of his fisherman paintings on my den wall. His allegiance to Wards Corner is however, unknown and questionable. Again, none of these candidates lives in the Wards Corner area and as far as I know, has no ties to our area except when they drive though Wards Corner or possibly shop at the few remaining stores. .

That's the field, I ask? Doesn't look promising for us, does it. Where is the true representative and leader for Wards Corner? So far that person has not surfaced.

The only other person who has talked with a few of us about possibly running is Louis Eisenberg. While I am not offering an endorsement for Louis at this time, he is or could be the only possible candidate who knows Wards Corner inside and out. He was a longtime business owner in Wards Corner and has been involved with the Wards Corner Partnership, which he founded in 1995. He has also been actively involved with many of us on the Wards Corner Task Force since its beginnings. Incidentally, he also attended our last civic league meeting in December 2009 and while not announcing he will run, he said he was considering a run. His message to us was the importance of finding a viable representative for Wards Corner who will truly represent us.

Several of us, including Jim McDonald the President of Talbot Park Civic League, Brad Robinson, owner of Wards Corner Chiropractic, Martin Thomas Jr. our own civic league Vice-President, and Louis Eisenberg will be meeting with the announced candidates in the near future. We have already met with Councilman Barclay Winn and will soon meet with Mayor Paul Fraim about the upcoming election and representative for Ward 1 and Wards Corner. Perhaps my views on the current candidates will change after that, but it will take a lot for that to happen.

So here is the reality as I see it. We need a candidate who will really represent Wards Corner. So far, I am not impressed. Of the 6 voting districts in Ward 1, our district of Granby Elementary has had the largest voting turnout for Ward 1. In theory we could carry or play a large part in the May election and enable our candidate to get elected. It would take work, but it can be done with door-to-door campaigning. Think about it. The only thing we need is a viable candidate to run who will represent our area.

I urge all of you to get involved with our Civic League now and participate in the election process. We need you, your neighborhood needs you, and the Greater Wards Corner Area needs you. You are vital to our revitalization efforts that we have been working on for so long.

As the new year begins, we will once again provide you with speakers on timely and relevant issues at our civic league meetings. We also want you to attend and bring your issues and concerns to us so that we may help address and/or rectify those issues and problems. You may keep track of the civic league happenings in this monthly newsletter, but your presence at the meetings is greatly appreciated. Please consider attending.

Happy New Year to all and wishes for a prosperous and healthy year.

Sincerely,



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2007.99
+ funds received	\$35.00		
-funds disbursed		\$88.25	
Ending Balance			\$1954.74

WARDS CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE MINUTES

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 6:45PM in the NFW Center. The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Jim English. Our PACE officer was absent.

Our invited speaker, Michelle Parker, of the Decker Law Firm (Wills, Trusts and Estates) gave an overview of Elder care legalese. She defined over 55 Medicare, Long term care, Medical Power of Attorney, Reverse Mortgage, Life Insurance, Value of Trusts and Elder abuse. She accepted questions and distributed Estate Planning Workbooks.

Chuck Brewer, a 9 yr veteran policeman and a contractor, introduced himself as a candidate for City Council Ward 1 elections in May, now represented by retiring Don Williams. Louis Eisenberg, also a possible candidate, expanded his thoughts on this Council's neglect of Wards Corner and noted that we should worry about what we are NOT getting.

Election of Officers was scheduled for this meeting. There being no nominations from the floor, Linda Trauseau moved to accept the present slate by acclamation. Jean Jones seconded. These officers will continue as President: Prof. Jim English; 1st Vice Pres.: Martin Thomas; 2nd Vice Pres.: Sue Classick; Secretary: Joan Griffey; and Treasurer: Ray Duron. Barbara Ross will remain as Newsletter Editor.

Announcements: Solid Waste and E Waste will be accepted at Pine ridge Industrial Park. Street sweeping schedules were presented. The Wards Corner Taskforce (Codes, Infrastructure, Beautification, Development, and Public Safety) is under a new Leader, Asst City Manager Stanley Stein, who will monitor and assist with agenda items. Wards Corner Partnership (all civic leagues in our boundary area from Southern Shopping Center to the Naval Base) is reorganizing with various Chairs to facilitate the meeting. DePaul Hospital has begun demolition of supplemental buildings for parking on Kingsley Lane. VP Thomas is the proud new Father of Baby Michael born Dec. 2. The winner of the Holiday Home Decorating Contest will be announced in January. The price of the newsletter has risen from \$68.25 to \$79.80 effective in January. We need advertisers for subscriptions. (\$10 per month or \$100 per year). Possible topics for Jan-Feb-Mar meetings are the Mayor, State Delegates and Senators, and a Candidate Forum for City Council

The January/February meetings are rescheduled to January 25 because of MLK holiday and Feb.22 because of Presidents Day holiday (the Fitness Center will be closed on the holidays).

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Griffey, Sec'y

SOMETHING FOR ALL OF US TO PONDER...IS IT MY TURN???

Wards Corner Civic League does keep you informed through our newsletter (more than 900 delivered) and of important issues through the internet, wardscornernow.com. Our monthly meetings (3rd Monday at 6:45PM in Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center) keeps you up to date, also. Wards Corner business area revitalization is being ignored and neglected by City Council, while other areas in the city are receiving their attention. Help with business development has not been productive. In 2003, \$250,000 was spent on the Greater Wards Corner Comprehension Plan. This plan has not been utilized. Monies spent in our area have been aesthetic only (black iron fences, green neighborhood signs, mermaid flags, median greenery, mast arm poles, and crosswalks). Aesthetic only is not sufficient. To survive as a safe and desirable place to live and work, Wards Corner needs Council's attention to bring new and sustainable businesses to the district. Council elections are scheduled for May. Politicians four years ago promised help for Wards Corner. It is time to remind them of their omissions. It is time we expect accountability. As the area loses clout, our home values decline and the loss of local business continues (28 empty storefronts), not only we, but City tax revenues suffer. It is time to become vocal with our friends and coworkers, to write letters to the editor, to send Emails to the Mayor, to make phone calls to our Councilpersons (Winn, Whibley, Williams, Hester, and Fraim). If you love living in this community, and want to see it reclaimed as a viable and safe hub of activity, stores, restaurants, and green space, it is YOUR turn to become a vested citizen.

THIS WAS EXCERPTED FROM A VA BEACH NEWSLETTER

"A few years ago, I had an epiphany about my personal involvement in our civic league. I have lived in ****for 20 years and I had from time to time attended membership meetings but I had not really been involved. I realized that a few members were shouldering the entire burden of keeping **** alive and relevant. While attending a general membership meeting, it occurred to me that it was my turn. It was my turn to help shoulder some of this burden. I dove in and got involved. This civic league does so much important work protecting our community from encroachment and keeping our members informed but it requires volunteers.we are all at different stages of our lives and have a variety of personal commitments but..... you don't have to take a head first leap into the water. If you only have an hour or two a month, we could use the help. Please contact our Board members and we can discuss how you can get involved to help out your civic league."

News and Notes

Please note that our January and February meetings are postponed one week because of the holidays. They will be held on January 26 and February 23.

WCCL Membership

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.

<p>Name:</p> <hr/> <p>Address:</p> <hr/> <p>Phone #:</p> <hr/>

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

-And the Winners Are...

Winners of the holiday decoration contest are:

Most Traditional-7361 Chevy

Most Whimsical-7333 Ruthven

Best Overall-405 Burleigh

Runners-up were 533 Birmingham and 421 Burleigh

Prizes will be presented to the winners.