



## Wards Corner Civic League

# Crossroads

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

**June 2010 Web site [www.Wardscorner.com](http://www.Wardscorner.com)**

### **CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY**

**June 21, 2010  
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS  
CENTER**

#### **Agenda**

**Representative invited  
from Superintendent's Office  
Norfolk Public Schools**

**Door Prize Awarded  
Gift Certificate**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Jim English [ajim.english@gmail.com](mailto:ajim.english@gmail.com)

Dear Neighbors,

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 and schools will be out and hopefully we will all enjoy some vacation time. Over the summer, please continue to enjoy the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. There are over 7000 members now and if you are not a member, please consider joining. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to take advantage of this facility in our own back yard. Also, we hope to be distributing Flags on the Fourth- thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer Ray Duron. The flags come to us courtesy of Senator Ralph Northam and Delegate Paula Miller. We need your help on this endeavor as well, so please contact Ray if you would like to help distribute flags on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Ray, thanks for coordinating this effort. I know you will once again do an outstanding job for this patriotic event, as we will see all of our streets impressively lined with American flags.

I wish to thank Barbara Ross for her continued dedicated service as our newsletter editor. She continues to do an excellent job preparing the newsletter each month. She has done this for us for the past six years. This takes a significant amount of time to complete and Barbara's newsletters are informative and always on time. Barbara, we thank you for your service and look forward to your newsletters again in the fall. Enjoy your two months of newsletter free time. Also, a special thanks to Joan Griffey and Ray Duron for keeping the records of our meetings and ensuring that our finances are in order. Joan, also thank you for your great efforts as Chair of the Beautification Committee. Joan is now also the Secretary of the Norfolk Federation of Civic Leagues. Your tenacity does pay off and we will soon be seeing the flower planters on the streets in the business district. Also, many thanks are in order to Sue Classick, our Vice President who is in charge of organizing the delivery of our newsletters each month with our many newsletter carriers. Thanks also to these dedicated carriers for their time in delivering our newsletters to you. This also is no small task. Finally a special thanks to Martin Thomas Jr. for his service as Vice President, providing us needed guidance at our Executive Committee meetings and for keeping our website up to date. Martin is also the Webmaster for WardsCornerNow and an active participant in the leadership of that newly formed group. Thanks also to you, our members, for your continued support by attending our meetings each month and working to improve our neighborhood. Thank you all!

For those of you attending our last civic league meeting where City Manager Regina Williams spoke to us, I want you to think about what you heard in her very informative session about the budget and budget process. Were you happy and satisfied with her words to us about the city's efforts to improve Wards Corner? If you were, so be it. If you were not and did not like what you heard or thought it was a repeat of what has been said time and time again, please let our new Councilman know that you are not satisfied with the attention being given to Wards Corner. I was especially happy to see our newly elected Ward One Councilman Andy Protogyrou in attendance to hear what Ms. Williams said. I was also happy to see newly elected Councilman Tommie Smigiel in attendance. They both were introduced and had the opportunity to say a few words. I know that Andy Protogyrou is already hard at work for

us on improving Wards Corner. He and Tommy Smigiel will be sworn in on July 1<sup>st</sup> as our new councilmen. We wish them the best as they begin their work for us. Remember, the power is in the group and only with all of us speaking out and demanding improvements for our area will that action happen. I know I will continue pushing for improvements for Wards Corner, but we need to do this together. I know we will see some improvement in the area over the summer. A. J. Gators is expected to open sometime in late summer. That hopefully will be the beginning of many new improvements in the business district.

Your job over the summer is to think about what improvements you would like to see in our individual and collective neighborhoods. Please let any member of the Executive Committee know what these improvements should be. Do you want improved lighting at the Northshore playground? Do you want more enforcement of cars parking on lawns? Do you see areas of city infrastructure (streets, curbs and gutters, etc.) in our neighborhood that need addressing? Is crime a problem that needs to be addressed more aggressively? Think about what improvements you would really like to see in the entire Wards Corner area. When we meet in September, we will hopefully have a list of these needs that we can share with you. Over the summer, rest assured that the dedication and commitment of the membership of Wards Corner Now, the 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.

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

Sincerely,



**WCCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Jim English	423-7154
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/ Membership	Martin Thomas, Jr.	618-6468
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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)

**GOODBYE and GOOD LUCK**

**We are sorry to hear that our Community Resource Officer, Curtis Jackson, has been re-assigned to the Patrol Sector, and will no longer be our "Officer on Call" in the Wards Corner area.**

**Our best wishes go out to him in his new responsibilities. We thank him for his past six years of dedicated service to the Wards Corner Area, his faithful attendance at our Civic League meetings, and the time he has taken in addressing our concerns.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balance			\$2387.94
+ funds received	\$25.00		
- funds disbursed		\$116.71	
Ending Balance			\$2296.23

**WCCL Membership**

**We now have 99 paid members in our civic league, increasing by four members since last month.**

**Are you one of our paid members?**

**Help us beat the 100 mark by our September meeting!**

***Membership in your civic league 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, please renew for 2010. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.***

<p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Phone and e-mail:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Thanks to the folks from the Sussex area and one from the Colony Point area for participating in the Adopt-A-Spot clean-up on Saturday, May 15. Members participating were Stephanie and Shawna Gallagher, Robert Lester, Pat Yaros and Ray and Betty Duron. In about an hour and a half, they picked up 9 bags of litter and some tree branches in our designated area at W. Little Creek and Ruthven Roads, and from there up Ruthven to the railroad tracks.**

**All who attend our June meeting will be eligible for a \$25 door prize-a restaurant gift certificate.**

**Wards Corner Civic League Minutes**

May 17, 2010

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, May 17, 2010 in NFW Center at 6:45 PM. President Jim English led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Officer Curtis Jackson gave a crime report: 3 break ins, 4 car larcenies, 2 vandalisms in April. In May: 1 robbery, stolen vehicle on Restmere, 3 larcenies from cars, a car jack at Farm Fresh and a homicide on Lankford Ave.

Pres. Jim welcomed members and guests: Andy Protogyrou, a lawyer and Tommy Smiegel, an educator, both successful members in City Council Ward 1 and Ward 5 elections. They encouraged us to keep current and aware, listen, and communicate our needs.

Regina Williams, Norfolk City Manager, introduced herself as having served 11 years as Manager. She stated the ongoing since January Budget process was to be voted upon this Tuesday. City Council appoints the Manager, the Auditor, Assessor, City Clerk and City Attorney. She, as chief operating officer, implements policies set by Council. One third of the State Budget goes to localities. The majority of this goes to public schools operation. The challenges to the budget are recession, slow growth, slow home sales and reduced prices, lower consumer confidence, reduced state aid, sales tax decline and rising costs for service. She spoke about the neighborhood plans (Titustown and Wards Corner), Capital Improvement Fund, what is needed (priorities, strategies, consensus). Questions posed by members were: Titustown parking lot, Denby Park acquisition, delinquent taxes, and blight standards, stagnation in business, redevelopment/conservation area, school accountability, and VA Power savings rebates.

Pres. Jim announced two enhanced intersection projects: the elementary school would soon be seeing a new \$50 thousand crosswalk and 5-6 others, \$250 thousand, would be installed in the business area. Art Collins asked to redo their contract in developing the Riverside Terrace Apartments. They desire 190 apartments to be built where 70 now stand. The 14 planters requested since April 2008 are to be installed once the city obtains clearance from right of way and if enough

volunteers offer to water, weed and tend to these. The drawing for the door prize was won by June Schumacher (\$25 gift certificate to Pancake House). The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Griffey, Secretary

**Bug Time Again!**

The Norfolk Department of Public Health, Vector Control Division, has initiated mosquito fogging operations for the 2010 Season. The Mosquito Hotline telephone number is (757) 683-2914. It is updated daily after 3:00 PM, listing fogging locations. Residents are urged to stay indoors when their areas are being fogged. The Virginia Department of Health recommends the following tips to reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- Check windows and door screens to ensure that mosquitoes can't enter your home.
- Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing.
- Limit outdoor exposure between dusk and dawn
- Use insect repellents with the smallest percentage of DEET necessary for the length of time you are exposed to mosquitoes, but no more than 50% for adults and not greater than 30% for children under 12
- Turn over or remove containers in your yard where water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, buckets and toys.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps or flat roofs.
- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens.

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

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
Police Emergency	911

**Your WCCL Board Wishes You  
a Safe and Happy Summer**