



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

October 2010

Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

**October 18, 2010
6:45 PM**

**NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER**

**Agenda
Invited Representative from Cox
Cable
Internet Safety**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

Instead of my normal message this month, I am choosing to share the letter that was written by John Knight, the owner of the Book Exchange at Wards Corner. It has appeared in the letters to the editor of the Virginian Pilot and is posted on the Wards Corner Now website as well. Perhaps you have been to his store and if not you should frequent it. Over the past several years that I have written my many messages I have always tried to be upbeat and positive as much as possible about the slow but steady progress that is being made in Wards Corner. John's letter is just that, and shows how one merchant at Wards Corner believes positive things are starting to happen in this area. I therefore want to share his letter with you.

"Has Wards Corner turned the corner?"

By: John Knight

Does Wards Corner feel a little different to you? It feels that way to me. When I first shopped at Wards Corner eight years ago, I sensed there was something special about this place. One year later, I made one of the biggest decisions of my life by opening a business here. The potential was enormous, in location and

demographics. Wards Corner was the "Times Square of the South", the busiest intersection in Norfolk, with over 60,000 cars passing through each day. I saw blacks, whites, Asians, Hispanics and every color of the rainbow walking around here. The customers ranged from the destitute to the well healed. Multi-BILLION DOLLAR Dollar Tree started right here. What a golden opportunity!

So, I opened The Book Exchange. Within a month in my shopping center, Lillian Vernon was gone. Soon Coffease closed, then Uncle Louie's, then Foot Locker, then a couple beauty salons, then Steckroth's, then Simply Fashions. Then the vandals struck. Then a lack of building maintenance led to peeling paint and frequent floods from above and below. Well, the good news was that we had plenty of parking... Luckily my overhead is low and my faith is strong. We have always been blessed with good customers and staff. And lately, it seems that those were the proverbial low points.

Take a look at Wards Corner NOW! The TIDE of trash has been picked up one piece at a time by people like Laura Thom, who has organized a multitude of cleanups. Now, Wards Corner businesses are expanding, while others are moving in for their shot at the American Dream- mind you, in a time when most shopping centers are suffering the effects of the "Great Recession".

If you have not been to Wards Corner in the past couple months, come see a few of the changes: AJ Gators has a beautiful new location in the old Warehouse Music store, ATC Fitness did an amazing remodel job on the old Lillian Vernon store and opened in record time. Our landlord sanded and painted our light poles. As I pulled out of our parking lot today, I noticed a new cell phone store across the street. What will tomorrow bring? I'm thinking positively. So, if you have an idea for a business in one of the few vacant spots that are left in Wards Corner, consider acting NOW! Try to visualize what the founders of Dollar Tree saw here. I GUARANTEE you, Wards Corner is still a goldmine!!!"

Yes things are starting to move in the redevelopment of Wards Corner. In addition to the above that is mentioned in Johns letter, the Wards Corner Pub is now open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Soon the city will place planters throughout the business district that will be maintained by volunteers from our civic league as well as the businesses in Wards Corner. Perhaps we have finally put a floor under the downward spiral of Wards Corner and the redevelopment of the area has begun. We can only hope that this is true. In the meantime, continue to be active with us and push for more attention by the city and our leaders for the Wards Corner area. Let's all be positive about the future of Wards Corner!

Thanks for your continued support of our area and hope to see you at the next civic league meeting.

Sincerely,



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Non-Emergency	441-5610
Community Police 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2,348.28
+ funds received	\$20.00		
- funds disbursed		\$127.95	
Ending Balance			\$2,240.33

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)

WCCL Membership

Our civic league now has one hundred households that are members. At least half of these households has two members each.

Thanks for your support!

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and e-mail:

WARNING-WARNING-WARNING

City Code 25-293-1 makes it unlawful to park or store, or allow to be parked or stored, in the front or side yard in a residence district, any motor vehicle on unimproved surface, including but not limited to dirt or grass, or in an area not approved by the Director of Public works.

IN OTHER WORDS, DON'T PARK ON THE GRASS IN YOUR YARD!!

YOU COULD RECEIVE A CITATION!

QUESTION

Do you notice a lot of litter around your home and yard? And somehow, no one ever stops to pick it up...Take a few minutes several times weekly to pick up the paper, cups and other debris around your home. You'd be amazed at how little time it

takes, how nice it makes your area look, and the pride you'll feel by doing it.

NEWS AND NOTES

Join Us!

Thanks to the folks from the Sussex, Colony Point, and Merridale areas for participating in the Adopt-A-Spot clean-up on Saturday, September 18. We collected 14 bags and gathered 6 big tree limbs. However, in about two weeks, the litter bugs will quickly replenish with fresh litter. Members participating were Robert Lester, Jim Pressler, Diane Dubay, Steve Yaros, Betty Duron, and our group leader, Ray Duron.

More Help Needed!!

Can you donate an hour a month to deliver our newsletters in your area? We have an empty route which is located on Michael Dr and the 400 block of Timothy. This is on the north side of Little Creek Road and includes 18 homes. Please call Sue Classick at 489-2315 to volunteer.

On November 5 and 6, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 6400 Newport Avenue, is holding their Harvest Bazaar. Baked goods, plants, holiday decorations, and attic treasures are for sale. Hours are 7AM to 2 PM on Friday, and 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday.

Don't forget your flu vaccine! Check with your doctor, or stop by one of our local pharmacies where you can walk in and get one.

We need your ideas! This is your Civic League. What would you like to hear discussed at the meetings? Please attend the meetings and let us know your thoughts and concerns, or contact a Board member with your ideas.

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

September 20, 2010

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, September 20, 2010 at 6:45PM in NFW Center. President Jim English led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our invited guest speaker, a representative of Cox Cable was

unavailable. Councilman Andy Protogyrou, representing Wards Corner in the Ward 1 Coalition, has submitted written requests to the City Manager to establish a line of credibility and accountability and has met with business owners in the future development of Wards Corner.

Sherry Johnson is the new Codes Administrator. She spent 13 years in the Property Maintenance Department and 9 years as Norfolk Cares supervisor. She will work with senior codes director Phillip Williams, public works, neighborhoods, police, health department, etc. to maintain neighborhood quality of life. Reach her by e-mail at sherry.johnson@norfolk.gov or by phone at 664-6510, 664-6563 or 376-7117. She answered questions concerning grass on sidewalks, parking on grass, vacant homes.

New Red Sector officer is Lt. Mackenzie, a former detective (homicide and forensics). His cell is 374-8922 and office 823-4448. The community resource person is Odell Davis (replacing retiring Officer Jackson)... cell 390-0417. Crime is down 10%. Questions of larceny, crimes of opportunity (full view unlocked vehicle) and Nutty Buddy street walkers were addressed.

Commissioner of the Revenue, Sharon McDonald, asked to speak about the wave of publicity she has received concerning her city credit card audit. She stated no fraud or misappropriation was found though there were errors in bookkeeping. She asked for our support. She promises improved record keeping, and a quarterly report on new programs, initiatives and employees. Martin Thomas, Jr, representing WC Taskforce, reported that the Collins Property, across from the NFW Center, has sold 9 of the 12 units (Westport). With a slow economy, no financing available, they wish to build 189 apts. rather than condos as promised. A new submission to Planning Council will be needed. "No new apartment" signs are appearing in neighborhoods. Joan Griffey stated that 12 "recycled" planters with drought resistant, colorful flowers will be installed at the business district in November. Her committee is responsible for watering and weeding these. The city will do the original plantings but will offer no replacements nor will water. Three businesses have stepped up to help and 3-4 more volunteers/groups are needed. Ray Duron and committee of volunteers collected 14 bags of litter along Ruthven Road on one Saturday AM. 60 some bags were collected in the business district by Sheriff's Detail and other volunteers.

Betty Duron was awarded the door prize...a \$25 gift certificate to AJGators.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectively Submitted Joan S Griffey, Sec'y