



Wards Corner Civic League

Crossroads

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

December 2010 Web site www.Wardscorner.com

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MONDAY

December 20, 2010
6:45 PM

NORFOLK FITNESS and WELLNESS
CENTER

Agenda

Thaler McCormick,
Executive Director, ForKids

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim English ajim.english@gmail.com

Dear Neighbors,

Holiday Greetings to all. The holiday season is again here. It is a time for great anticipation, reflection and joy as all of us celebrate our own traditions and religions. It is also a time that we need to reflect on those in our community, city, nation and world who may not be celebrating a joyful season and reach out to them in whatever ways we can. This year, that is particularly the case for the unemployed who may see their benefits end if Congress does not extend them. Helping the shut-ins or needy is perhaps the best gift we can give. Thinking of those fighting a war in the far away Middle East and assisting their families is the best way we also as neighbors can support them. As we gather with our own families this holiday season let us not forget that there are those folks out there who may not be able to celebrate. They need our thoughts and prayers. A simple smile, hello or can I help you goes a long way to show them that someone cares. Let us also pray for all of our city, state and national leaders for responsible decision-making in the coming year.

I always like to use this time of year to talk about going "green" for the Holiday season. Undoubtedly this is the time of year of over consumption. If you are looking for some ideas on going "green" for this Holiday season I am again going to share with you some of those ideas that are circulating on the web. The following is taken from Go Green This Holiday Season: Have an Eco Friendly Christmas by © S. Elliott

"Christmas Cards that Protect the Environment

Let's face it; most Christmas cards end up in landfill. They can be loving reminders to people far away, but this year why not consider sending e-cards to loved ones who have computers. That way you can send loving thoughts of the season while showing your love for the planet.

Holiday Wrapping Paper and the Environment

I don't think there is anyone who hasn't had a moment's pause when disposing of all of that wrapping paper the day after Christmas. What a waste. This year, why not try wrapping smaller gifts with fabric. There are thousands of Christmas fabrics available that can be cut with pinking shears (so they don't ravel) and used to wrap smaller gifts.

These decorative wraps can be used year after year. The average bolt of cotton fabric is 42" to 45" wide, and many seasonal fabrics are very reasonably priced. Fabric makes a unique and impressive presentation when used to dress a gift, and it is also good for the environment. Or look for recycled and recyclable papers for gift-wrapping paper. Also try other ideas like giving baskets, reusable gift boxes and bags.

LED lights. Look for Christmas tree lights and outdoor lights that are LED. You will save on energy and get more hours of use from environmentally friendly LED light bulbs. Turn off lights when you're not around.

LED Candles. Invest in a few LED candles to strategically place around the home. They are safer, last longer and don't let off dangerous fumes, lead and etc.

Switch to Soy Candles. Soy candles are healthier and provide a "green" alternative, especially for the winter holiday season.

Don't use disposable plastics. This year, if you're inviting friends over for Christmas, forget the disposable plastics and Styrofoam. Use the real thing!

Recycling Bin. If you happen to use some supplies during the holidays that can be recycled, be sure to put a recycling in the room so people will use it, rather than throwing those items in the trash.

Buy Local at Christmas

It is a good practice to get into the habit of buying local. When you buy local seasonal produce or buy from local artisans, you are saving on packaging and transportation costs.

Your Christmas Tree

There is some controversy over whether an artificial or real tree is the most environmentally responsible way to go, but it

is a sure bet that if you buy a living tree that you are planning on planting after the holiday, you'll be doing the planet a favor. When you shop for a living tree, select one that will grow in your area and can be kept in a pot outdoors until your ground thaws in spring. Plan on bringing your living tree indoors no more than a week before Christmas, and put it back outdoors right after Christmas. If you live in an apartment, or don't have room in your yard for an evergreen, check into the option of donating it to a local rest home or children's center after the holiday. If you opt for a cut tree, try to locate a lot that sells trees that are locally grown, and recycle it after the holiday.

Christmas Gifts

If you are buying electronic gifts to replace items in your home, dispose of old electronic components and batteries responsibly. Whenever possible, purchase gifts that are made from recycled materials or from retailers that support eco-friendly businesses.

Consider making a eco-aware donation on a gift recipient's behalf this year. Teaching someone the value of giving is a great gift in itself.

Energy Awareness Over the Holidays

Cut back on your Holiday lighting. It's tempting to want to share your Holiday spirit with the neighborhood, but consider the ways in which the energy might be better spent.

Use good energy conservation practices in your kitchen by monitoring your use of the oven and controlling how long you leave your refrigerator door open. This seems like a small thing, but waste adds up.

Holiday Food

Don't buy more food than you can eat. Use leftover vegetables to make soup after the holiday. If you have extra, you might consider sharing by donating it to a local charity or soup kitchen.

Going green is an every day commitment, but you can make a start during the holidays. Give a gift to the planet and everyone who lives on it by being ecologically conscious."

I hope to see you at our December 20th meeting as we will have representatives from ForKids who will discuss their plans to open a Thrift Store in the business district of Wards Corner. We need you there to hear this and voice your concerns or support for this venture. We all need to ask and answer the question: "Is this the best type of business we want in Wards Corner?" We also will have updates on the Collins Project on Newport Avenue.

Finally, from my family to yours, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season with the best of wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance			\$2,177.38
+ funds received	\$160.00		
- funds disbursed		\$82.95	
Ending Balance			2,254.43

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

It's time to renew your membership in your civic league for 2011 - 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 2011. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so now.

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>E-mail:</p> <p>_____</p>

PLEASE NOTE-OUR JANUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 24 BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY.

NEWS AND NOTES

—
Thanks to the folks from the Sussex Area for participating in the Adopt-A-Spot clean-up on Saturday, November 20. We collected 11 bags of litter and three tree limbs. Members participating were Robert Lester, Jim Pressler, Stephanie Gallagher, Betty Duron and 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 the 300 and 400 blocks of Maycox. Please call Sue Classick at 489-2315 to volunteer.

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**Holiday Decorating Contest
Don't Forget!**

**Several Board members will be traveling around our neighborhoods the nights of December 17, 18, 19 to select winners from each of three categories (Traditional, Whimsical, Best Overall) and two honorable mentions for our Holiday Decoration Contest. Please turn your outside lights on by 6:00 PM.
Winners will be announced at our December meeting.**

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Elections

A slate of nominees for the WCCL Board will be presented at our December meeting. Elections will be held in January. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Wards Corner Civic League Minutes

November 15, 2010

Wards Corner Civic League met on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 6:45PM in NFW Center. President Jim English led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed two new members, Sheila Gallagher and Donna Van. Attendance: 30.

Andy Protogyrou, our Council representative since July, spoke about his development policy (no meeting with developers before the Council meets), his voting record (no vote on cemetery budget or downtown buyout for light rail), Wards Corner city codes (repaved area in

AutoZone parking lot, extended fencing in front of the Post Office, planters placement), burglaries (need added security in our area) and Denby Park (\$1.7 mil set aside for requisition).

Officer Odell Davis reported an unlocked car break-in near Norfolk Collegiate. He stated his territory has been expanded from Willowood Dr to the Naval Base to ODU/49th St. with 5 cars to cover such a large area; it will be difficult to respond ASAP. Truancy activity has increased, also. He related three robberies on Newport, N. Shore and Doris, a shooting for narcotics on Timothy and Ruthven, a 600 (house) and a 400 (auto) block of Burleigh break-in. During holidays, crime increases. Please phone police if anything suspicious is noted.

Sheriff Robert McCabe, a constitutional officer, was our guest speaker. After Navy service, he worked 12.5 yrs as Policeman. In 1993, he was elected the Sheriff in charge of the largest jail in VA. It is accredited and one of the best run in the state in inmate care, efficiency, fiscal responsibility and overall management. Jail population is 1367. The average age is 34 yrs. with 90% male, 66% single, and 59% unemployed. Sheriff's staff is 500 of which 50% live in Norfolk. Prisoner average stay is 58-60 days, meals are 2800 Cal/day, and reward system offers TV, recreation and gym 24/7. Tours are offered on 3rd Thursday. Sheriff McCabe praised Laura Thom of North Shore Physical Therapy for her continual use of the Sheriff's Work Force in maintaining litter control in Wards Corner...62 bags collected last month. Paula Miller is the Public Information Officer and she handles press inquiries, the employee newsletter, and inmate videos. For more information, contact norfolksheriffsoffice.com. Phone 664-4700.

President Jim explained the controversy over the Collins property. A WardsCornerNow meeting gave citizens a chance to question Mr. Art Collins. Earlier, Jim and others asked about amenities, reconfiguring, a bump out, trees, traffic study, WC Plan of 2004, traffic impact, and adding apartments from 232 to 376.

A new sewer line will be installed in the middle of the streets of some neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectively Submitted,
Joan S. Griffey, Sec'y

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR WARDS
CORNER CIVIC LEAGUE BOARD**